

**Vacation in an island paradise**  
From beaches to nightlife, Hawaii  
has lots to offer gay travellers.  
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**Out of the closet and into history**  
Horizons Foundation to honor Gerry  
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**Beyond leather**  
Hot House Video re-  
invents leather film.  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971



## Time for Folsom!

by Mister Marcus

Participants in the  
annual Leather  
Walk on September  
19 head to their  
first pit stop at the  
Loading Dock.

## Republican donations by Gap and Schwab founders raise gay eyebrows

by Matthew S. Bajko

## Swaggart threatens to kill gay men

by Cynthia Laird

**G**ay organizations are demanding that religious leaders repudiate a statement aired on Canadian television last week by American evangelist Jimmy Swaggart in which he threatened to kill gay men. The incident has already prompted a Canadian television station to apologize publicly to viewers, according to 365gay.com, while a national agency has launched an investigation.



Jimmy Swaggart

According to a transcript of the program, Swaggart said: "I'm trying to find the correct name for it... this utter absolute, asinine, idiotic stupidity of men marrying men. ... I've never seen a man in my life I wanted to marry. And I'm gonna be blunt and plain; if one ever looks at me like that, I'm gonna kill him and tell God he

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## Folsom Street Fair defies the trends

by Robert Davolt, special to  
the Bay Area Reporter

**O**ne of the few times that San Francisco puts its leather community on the front page, these last few weeks every September offer an annual opportunity to peek at the unique legacy celebrated at the Folsom Street Fair. The 21st annual fair takes place Sunday, September 26 in San Francisco's South of Market District, on Folsom Street, of course, between 7th and 12th streets.

"Leather" as a general, umbrella code that once meant "kinky" or "unconventional" (primarily in terms of sex) has Balkanized into competing fetishes, factions, and sub-groups.

As a community, the old social infrastructure is noticeably fraying. Leather clubs and organizations, the traditional backbone of the leather community, continue to disintegrate and disband. Leather contests, which have seemingly taken over the role of social orientation and induction, are finding it difficult to find contestants, revenue, or relevance. In spite of San Francisco's vaunted history and welcoming reputation, many new arrivals complain of feeling isolated and frustrated.

If you are one who is squeamish about change and uncertainty, the overall state of the leather disunion may not be comforting. You may want to look away because, however you measure it, leathercity is in transition.

Analyzed as a business market, leather is seen as a bit scuffed and faded. Leather bars and businesses, which have always struggled with the general displeasure of straightish, respectable society, now face the additional obstacles of being a post-9/11 small business.

Leather art and literature has always been an eclectic mixture of manifesto and porn, with few serious outlets. Slick, corporate ma-



Folsom Street Events board President Sally McDonnell, left, and Darryl Flick, director of operations, are ready for Folsom.

terials from mainstream suppliers who simply apply a thin leather laminate to their standard products have replaced the publications, videos, and artwork produced by and aimed toward the leather community. Five years ago, the Bay Area was the voice of leather sexuality. In San Francisco alone, three of the oldest gay, adult, leather-oriented publishers were turning out a total of 11 internationally distributed magazines. Today, there are only three surviving such leather/kink titles in the entire country; two based in Los Angeles, one

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**A** funding flap in one of San Francisco's supervisorial districts is focusing attention on the political donations of two prominent local Republican businessmen, Charles Schwab, founder of the investment firm named after him, and Gap Inc. founder and CEO Donald Fisher. Not only are their contributions to a downtown-backed lobbying group being scrutinized, but the men's giving to right-wing Republican candidates and members of Congress are also raising eyebrows in the LGBT community.

District 1 Supervisor Jake McGoldrick, who is facing a tough re-election race against Lillian Sing and a host of other candidates, filed complaints this month with the San Francisco Ethics Commission charging the lobbyist group, SFSOS, of violating state and local campaign finance laws with its backing of Sing. As McGoldrick's campaign lobs its attack against the group, it dug into who is financially supporting SFSOS. What the campaign came up with is a who's who of the San Francisco business community.

McGoldrick's campaign then searched Federal Elections Commission data to see what those backers are doing on a national

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## Safe sex info often missing from bars

by Kevin Davis

Communication breakdowns and myopic thinking in the safe sex information distribution network has resulted in the literature's absence from some businesses frequented by sexually active gay men.

Isolated pieces in this puzzle, working independently of each other, often means health department brochures, pamphlets, and wallet cards covering topics such as syphilis, crystal use, and clinic addresses end up in the trash.

All parties — the San Francisco Department of Public Health outreach workers; the agency creating such popular campaigns as "The Adventures of Healthy Penis" and "HIV Stops With Me," and "AIDS Is No Picnic;" and business owners displaying the material — to varying degrees point fingers toward other levels in the health services network, for fear of facing accusations of impeding what all agree are lifesaving messages.

"The Healthy Penis comic book was designed to fit in a pocket," said the 2-year-old campaign's developer, Better World Advertising's Les Pappas. The health department has seen an increase in syphilis testing and requests for the Healthy Penis squeeze toy, according to Pappas.

Neither DPH nor its ad agency, Better World Advertising, supply



Moby Dick's Doug Murphy favors safe sex information in his bars (he also owns Daddy's) but wants the health department to provide something in which to place the materials so they don't end up in the trash.

establishments with display racks. As a result, employees, managers, and owners must find a flat surface on which to display the materials. Often, tipsy patrons brush the palm-size papers onto the floor, which then get swept up and trashed by cleaning crews.

"You know how it is," said Greg Bronstein, owner of The Bar on Castro. "The bar gets so busy. At night stuff gets trashed."

"To be honest, a lot of times they're thrown in the trash," said Doug Murphy, owner of Daddy's bar and Moby Dick. "In three days it's all over. It becomes a mess — all

that crap not in containers. It makes the bar a total wreck. They just bring them and throw them down. In 20 minutes they're everywhere."

"Tell the health department to give us something to keep it in to stay nice and neat. Do they have a compartmental thing? It would behoove them quite a bit," Murphy added.

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# District 1 candidate comes out against same-sex marriage

by Tyson Gillfillan

Rose Tsai, a candidate for District 1 supervisors, feels strongly about certain issues: more parking for local businesses, killing bond proposals for government efficiency, and that same-sex couples should not marry.

Opposition to same-sex marriage has activists in the LGBT community shocked that such an attitude exists in San Francisco, particularly among political hopefuls. Tsai ascribes her feelings on the issue to her traditional Chinese and Christian upbringing. Tsai's comments first appeared last week in an interview in the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

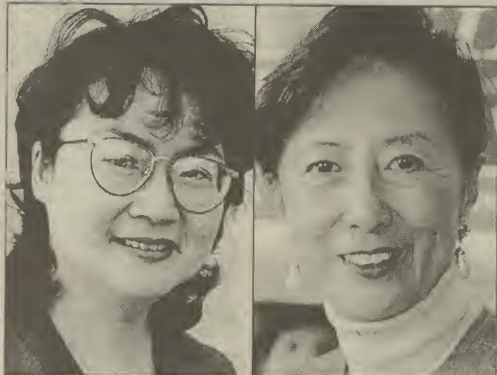
Robert Bernardo of San Francisco's Gay Asian Pacific Alliance said his group is working to change perceptions. "There's a myth out there that all Asians are very conservative," said Bernardo.

Tsai insists that same-sex marriage is a "non-issue" in this election, and that the Board of Supervisors should have no voice in the gay marriage debate. Still, she focuses on "traditional marriage" and "family values" in her campaign literature — an appeal to conservative Richmond District residents.

Tsai said the LGBT community is made up of "Children of God" who are her brothers and sisters, but insisted, "We all need to take a stand on something, and opposing [gay marriages] is a part of my religious and cultural upbringing."

To San Franciscans who have been embroiled in the issue, many doubt that message flies with the community. "San Francisco is this big, beautiful diverse city," said Richmond District resident Darlene Fong. "I live here because I want my children to grow up knowing that whoever they turn out to be, they'll be treated with love and respect, and have the same rights that my husband and I have, period."

Meanwhile GAPA says that Asian Americans aren't as conservative as Tsai may think, and that progressive politics and traditional Asian upbringings do not need



Rose Tsai, left, does not support same-sex marriage; Lillian Sing, also a candidate in the District 1 race, supports marriage equality.

to be incongruous. Bernardo points to Hawaii's role as the first state to engage in the gay marriage debate and Filipino American Governor Ben Cayetano's support, as well as GAPA's recent "Summer of Love 2004" Rally for marriage equality in San Francisco's Sunset District, which drew several hundred participants.

Lillian Sing, one of Tsai's six opponents in the election, has long embodied the progressive Asian spirit. A former board member for GAPA, Sing has garnered the endorsements of such LGBT community organizations as the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, and community leaders such as Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. As an activist, attorney, and former Superior Court judge, Sing said she has been fighting discrimination for decades, and is proud to have worked with the late Harvey Milk in the 1970s against the antigay Briggs initiative ballot measure.

"The Board of Supervisors cannot be a governing body that supports any type of discrimination," said Sing. "The Board of Supervisors must uphold the law — including the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to make sure that all people are treated equally."

This isn't the first time Tsai has run for a Board of Supervisors seat. She had an unsuccessful run

in 1998, as well as in 2000 against current incumbent Jake Goldrick. Tsai knows hers is the minority opinion in San Francisco on the same-sex marriage issue, but does not think this will have much effect on the election. "If the mayor wants to advocate for [gay marriage], he should do so on his own time. It's not in his job description, elected officials need to focus on our roles," said Tsai.

In the *Bay Guardian* interview, Tsai was asked whether she thought homosexuality "is a moral failure." "I think ... according to the Bible, it's a sin ... I don't view somebody because they are gay or bisexual as any less than my family. They are all God's children."

Tsai was then asked whether gays and lesbians should have fewer rights. "I don't think so," she replied. "I think they can still marry people of the opposite sex."

Some wonder whether such a stance could spell disaster for a potential supervisor trying to work with an administration that so strongly supports marriage equality.

"If [Tsai] wins the election, we are totally open to working with her ... to discuss the needs of the community," said GAPA's Bernardo. "But let us be reminded this is not the first time she's gone after this position. Maybe the voters are trying to tell her something." ▼



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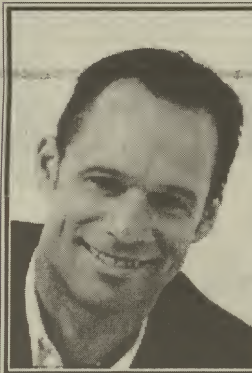
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# News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

## Pride 2005 theme chosen

The San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Committee has announced that the 2005 Pride theme is "Stand Up, Stand Out, Stand Proud." The theme was selected at the committee's annual membership meeting.

"No matter who wins the presidential election, our community will continue to be under attack by the extreme right-wing movement in the U.S.," said Pride President Joey Cain.

Also at the general meeting, Cain and Treasurer Kirsten Boyd were re-elected to serve another term; the membership votes in November on officers. The membership also confirmed the appointments made earlier this year of Clyde Poole, Ren Davis Phoenix, and Aidan Kotler to serve as board members. Peter Fiske did not seek re-election and steps down after two years of service.

Next year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco Pride Celebration, which will take place over the weekend of June 25-25.

## Esta Noche party

Esta Noche, one of the oldest gay bars in San Francisco, celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Friday, September 24 with a special party,

complete with a buffet, drink specials, and a special show featuring Alexis Miranda and "Queens of the Nite" Galilea, Doris, Debora, Taina, Violeta, Empress Marlena, and Cassandra. DJs Eclipse and Jose from San Jose will spin until the wee hours of the morning. The fun starts at 7 p.m. at the bar, located at 3079 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Methodists host conference

The First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto is sponsoring a conference this weekend entitled "Beyond Acceptance." The purpose of the conference, organizers said, is to build connections and coalitions, generate inspiration, and create new ideas among church leaders and community organizations working toward a more inclusive society.

The Reverend Dr. Mel White will be the keynote speaker, talking about a future beyond the acceptance of LGBT people. White will deliver his keynote address Friday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m., after which there will be a performance by the MCC-San Francisco choir. On Saturday, the conference will feature several workshops throughout the day and an evening of music with the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, the Rainbow Women's Chorus, and the Transcendence Gospel Choir. Sunday will feature White preaching at the

10:25 a.m. worship service.

Registration for the conference is \$25. For more information, visit [www.firstpaloalto.com](http://www.firstpaloalto.com) or call (650) 323-6167. The church is located at 625 Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto.

## Hepatitis C workshop

Quan Yin Healing Arts Center will present a free workshop on hepatitis C care on Saturday, September 25 at the center, 455 Valencia Street in San Francisco. Mishla Cohen, OMD, L.Ac., will present a workshop focusing on nutritional supplements for chronic hepatitis C infection. The session will start with a light breakfast at 9:30 a.m., and will end with a mini-Qigong class at noon.

The workshop is the fifth in a series of ongoing hepatitis C care education series in 2004-2005. The project is designed to enhance knowledge, improve well-being, and assist in health care decision making for people living with the disease. Caregivers are also welcome to attend.

For more information, call Yukihiko Ippai Yasuda at (415) 861-4964 or e-mail [qyhac@aol.com](mailto:qyhac@aol.com).

## Estate planning workshop

The Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward will present an open discussion on estate planning and probate for the LGBT

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# Gov. signs broader syringe bill

by Kevin Davis

**B**roader syringe access could dramatically decrease new HIV infections among IV drug users thanks to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's signing Monday of Senate Bill 1159. The bill, authored by state Senator John Vasconcellos' (D-Santa Clara), authorizes local pharmacies to sell up to 10 syringes to adults without a prescription and will permit adults to possess them if obtained from authorized sources. It applies to cities or counties where local elected officials approve of the practice.

Until now California was one of only five remaining states that prohibited the sale of syringes without a prescription.

Former Governor Gray Davis vetoed a similar bill last year.

Sharing used syringes is directly linked to 20 percent of all reported California AIDS cases, according to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Studies show that access to clean needles does not increase rates of drug use or crime.

"In all my years of talking to

gay men about crystal meth use, they've never said they use it because San Francisco has a needle exchange program," said Dana Van Gorder, SFAF director of state and local affairs.

It costs someone about 15 cents to purchase a syringe at a pharmacy while it can cost as much as \$34,000 a year to treat a person living with AIDS.

Current law requires a person be 18 or older with a valid ID and a prescription to purchase a hypodermic needle and for the pharmacist to keep detailed records of nonprescription needle sales. The law made it a misdemeanor to sell or possess illegal drug paraphernalia.

The new law establishes the disease prevention demonstration project, a collaboration between pharmacies and health officials, to evaluate the long-term desirability of allowing licensed pharmacists to furnish or sell nonprescription needles until the end of 2008 when the demonstration ends. After that, the state Office of AIDS is required to revise regional waste management plans for the safe collection and disposal of needles generated by households.

The new law also requires pharmacies selling nonprescription needles to provide the purchaser with written information or verbal counseling on drug treatment options and testing and treatment of HIV and hepatitis C, to store hypodermic needles so that they are only available to authorized personnel, and provide for the safe disposal of needles with an onsite needle disposal program.

In getting the bill passed in the Legislature earlier this year, Vasconcellos successfully argued that California's laws made it impossible for drug users to comply with public health recommendations to use sterile syringes to prevent the transmission of blood-borne pathogens, such as HIV and hepatitis C.

SB1159 calls for criminal penalties for improper needle disposal in places where children might be exposed to them, and authorizes local government to incorporate the collection and disposal of home-generated sharps within household hazardous waste programs.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AEF sets cap on benefits, adjusts eligibility rules

by Kevin Davis

This year's adjustments to the AIDS Emergency Fund's client eligibility guidelines affects those earning over \$1,960 per month while setting a lifetime assistance cap of \$5,000. Additionally AEF has initiated a strategic planning process to make it more flexible, efficient, and useful.

AEF Executive Director Mike Smith made the announcement in an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, September 20. The eligibility change goes into effect October 1; the cap will be gradually phased in.

When the 12-member AEF board meets for its annual retreat in August to juggle its program eligibility options based on estimated upcoming government support, community support, and

client need, it has control over only a few variables. Board members can tinker with grant size, which has remained \$500 to \$600 per year for the past decade. They also decide on frequency of grants, which has varied from every six months to a year; letter of diagnosis; and allowable expenses, usually rent, utilities, and medical expenses. Income threshold and instituting a lifetime cap are two other variables, and it was those that the board adjusted this year.

For the last several years, the income threshold criterion has been \$1,960. That figure represents California's maximum state disability payment, which recently climbed to \$2,400.

If AEF continued to use that as a guideline, it would have to serve many more clients, and thus lower grant sizes below the current \$500 per year, said Executive Director



AEF Exec. Director Mike Smith

Mike Smith.

"We really feel like \$500 is already too low and we'd like to give more," Smith added.

As a result, beginning October 1, AEF will lower its income threshold to \$1,165 per month as its benchmark to determine clients in most severe need, which is defined as 150 percent of the federal poverty level. The guidelines chosen by AEF were set by the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council. The council determines how Ryan White CARE Act money is allocated among various agencies,

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# HRC decides to investigate Badlands case

by Matthew S. Bajko

The San Francisco Human Rights Commission has informed Les Natali, a Castro bar owner accused of racist practices, that it will investigate the charges lodged against him. After a September 9 deadline to set mediation dates passed with no agreement, HRC informed Natali's lawyers of its decision in a letter dated September 15.

In addition to the missed deadline, commission staff also pointed to an impasse between the complainants and Natali to reach a settlement on their own. In the letter, staff write, "Your client proposed a mediation format different than the commission's usual format and the complainants did not agree to his proposal."

Signed by Larry Brinkin, an HRC senior contract compliance officer, the letter also informs Natali that the city agency will be sending both parties in the case an investigation plan requesting documents as well as a list of individuals the HRC will want to interview. As the HRC moves forward in the case, Brinkin did allow for mediation to still occur.

"Although the commission is



Bar owner Les Natali

disappointed that we are not able to bring the parties together at this time to attempt to resolve this dispute, we remain available to mediate this complaint at any time during the investigative process," states Brinkin in the letter.

While Brinkin asked Natali to contact him if he does decide to pursue mediation, the bar owner told the *Bay Area Reporter* last Wednesday that he welcomes the investigations by both HRC and the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, which is close to completing a three-month review of complaints it has received

in the matter.

"I want to know if there is any factual basis or if the complaints are valid and then go into mediation," Natali said.

Natali, who has said he would mediate in the case, said earlier this month he wanted to wait until after the ABC holds a hearing this fall on his application to transfer the Pendulum's liquor license into his name. Natali is trying to buy the bar, which caters to a black clientele, and community leaders have raised objections over it with the state agency.

Instead of mediation he offered to meet with the complainants to try to settle the matter. But his offer has been rebuffed, with the complainants pushing instead for mediation. They have accused Natali of stalling the process and welcomed HRC's decision to now investigate their charges.

"We're saddened that Mr. Natali's ongoing bad faith caused mediation to fail," said John Newsome, an organizer of IsBadlands-Bad.com, which brought forth the complaints in mid-June. "But we are pursuing many other avenues. If Mr. Natali thinks he can stall this problem away, he's wrong. We won't stop until justice prevails." ▼

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

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Cynthia Laird

## ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

## POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

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Zak Szymanski

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Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Aaron J. Cohen  
Kevin Davis • Richard Dodds • Eric Ganther  
Glen Helfand • Liz Highleyman • Joe E. Jeffreys  
Brandon Judell • Robert Julian • John F. Karr  
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## ART DIRECTION &amp; LAYOUT

Adrian Roberts

## AD PRODUCTION &amp; DESIGN

T. Scott King

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland  
Darlene/PhotoGraphics  
Marc Geller  
Rick Gerharter

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## Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230  
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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## OPEN FORUM

## Register to vote

The war in Iraq that President Bush started is spinning dangerously out of control. Just this week it was reported that insurgents in the war-torn country beheaded two civilian American hostages. More than 1,000 U.S. military personnel have lost their lives since the fighting started last year, in addition to the thousands of Iraqis who have been killed. Senior Pentagon officials don't seem to know what to do, and U.S. military commanders are ill equipped to make any headway in guaranteeing security and reconstructing the country. U.S. military personnel were exposed on film abusing Iraqi prisoners. A sizable portion of the American public now feels the rush to war was wrong. International support has never been solid. The president squandered the goodwill exhibited by many countries after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The United States is not seen as a liberator, but rather as an occupier. The president risked the credibility of the United States by insisting on going to war based on faulty intelligence that weapons of mass destruction were inside Iraq — which to date have not been found.

Meanwhile, at home, the House of Representatives is expected next week to vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment that would enshrine discrimination into the U.S. Constitution. The Republicans have solidified their unholy alliance with social conservatives in an effort to play into the fears of many heterosexuals, particularly those in swing states. Last week, campaign mail sent to voters in West Virginia warned that the Bible will be prohibited and men will marry men if liberals win in November. According to the Associated Press, the literature — with a return address of the Republican National Committee — shows a Bible with the word "BANNED" across it and a photo of a man, on his knees, placing a ring on the hand of another man with the word "ALLOWED." Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart recently threatened to kill gay men who looked at him "like that" — adding to the climate of fear that

could result in violence against gays.

These are the times in which we live — scary for the LGBT community, and the world at large. In the midst of an extremely tight presidential race, LGBT citizens must register to vote in the November 2 election. There is too much at stake for people to shrug off their civic duty. And while historically the LGBT community has high voter turnout, nothing can be taken for granted this year. If you are not registered or if you think your registration may have lapsed because of relocation or other issues, you need to hurry down to your local elections department and register to vote. The deadline in California is October 18; deadlines in other states vary.

This is Folsom Street Fair weekend, when hundreds of thousands of people will be in town to celebrate the fetishes and triumphs of the leather community. We want people —

locals and visitors alike — to have a great time. But when the partying is over and you've returned home, read this and take a few minutes to check your voting status.

Apathy is no excuse. We know many people in the community are frustrated over the recent lackluster campaign of Democrat John Kerry. But face it: Kerry is a much more acceptable alternative to George W. Bush. There are also important Senate races in several states, and Democrats need to win many of those as well if the party is to break the Republican stranglehold on the federal government (White House, both houses of Congress, and the U.S. Supreme Court) and take back at least one legislative chamber.

Living in a democracy requires citizen participation, and one of the easiest ways to participate is to vote. But you can't vote if you're not registered. ▼



## Editorial



## The cub and the con

by Simon Sheppard

The essence of tricking is trust; when you invite a stranger home, there's always risk. Usually you get away with it, but sometimes you don't. One friend of mine lost a Rolex, another his life. I got off easy — I was recently taken for 42 bucks.

It started with an AOL Instant Message from a cute cub with a winning smile and a working-class Southern background, due to move from the East Bay to an apartment in San Francisco in two days. He was in my bed within the hour. Okay, Kirk couldn't get hard, but we all have days like those. After my orgasm and before his shower, he checked the messages on his cell phone.

"Shit!" he said. "There's a problem with my new apartment." He spent the next half hour on the phone, arguing with someone at his rental agency.

"The building's been sold," he said, after hanging up. "The new owner won't honor my lease."

"That doesn't seem possible," I said. "I already paid for utilities," he continued, panicky. "The movers have my stuff."

His convoluted hard-luck story rang a faint warning bell in my boy-besotted brain. While he showered, I sneakily checked out the driver's license in his wallet; it matched the name he'd given me. I carefully slipped it back, feeling soiled by my suspiciousness.

He rushed off to the rental agency, saying he'd come back if he could. But when he called later, the news was grim — he'd have to fight to get back the \$1,900 apartment deposit, and was out of his utility money. Poor baby.

In the following days, we talked by phone a few times. I even passed on advice from a realtor friend. I wanted things to work out for him. And I wanted to get back into his charming pants.

Then Kirk's saga took a bizarre turn for the worse. The agency had redeposited

\$1,900 in his account. But when he'd gone to the ATM, he'd somehow left his check card behind. He hadn't realized it for hours, and some nefarious soul had cleaned out his account. He was massively upset. I wanted to hug him.

"Wouldn't someone need a PIN code to use your card?" I asked.

"Not this one. The bank's telling me there's nothing they can do." He hung up abruptly.

I was much more involved in this semi-stranger's drama than I'd planned. After leaving a few unreturned messages, I let things drop.

Several days later, I got another call. "Sorry I haven't returned your calls, but I can't deal with San Francisco. I'm heading back to Arkansas."

Oh, well.

Next day, another call.

"Great news," Kirk said.

"My bank came through with the \$1,900." Hadn't

he said they wouldn't make good? Well, whatever.

"Terrific!"

"I couldn't leave; I've found an apartment just six blocks from you. But ... I need a little favor." Uh-oh. "My mom's depositing money in my account tomorrow, but now I'm a bit short. Can you lend me \$42? For just a day? I'll show you my driver's license, so you know you can trust me." Suspicious bastard that I am, I'd already seen it.

"Um, I guess so." I'm not big on lending money. But I wanted to act like a nice guy, wanted to see Kirk again. And it seemed wildly improbable this was a rip-off. A 12-day buildup for a measly 42 bucks?

"Great. I'll be there in 15 minutes."

He arrived in five.

After giving him a hug and the money, I asked, "You're not going to rip me off, are you?" What a supremely stupid question.

"Course not. Want to see my ID?"

"Nope." Shameless.

"I'll come back once the apartment's squared away. About six?"

"You can spend the night. That way, if you don't pay me back, you'll be my cheap whore."

He laughed and kissed me. "See you soon," he said, heading out the door.

As I planned our dinner, the rational part of me knew damn well that I'd been sold a line of bullshit, a scam that had been hatched before we met. There'd been no apartment, no phone message, no one on the other end of his cell phone. Why had I fallen for such an utterly improbable story?

Well, there was the improbability itself: what self-respecting grifter would make up a story so full of holes? Weirdly, its transparent falseness was a guarantor of its truth.

And all that work for such a trifling sum? Well, maybe he realized there was no way he'd get big bucks out of me. Perhaps he did

it more for the twisted pleasure of swindling me than for the cash. Or maybe I was just one of a bunch of trusting, sympathetic, probably older, marks; maybe Kirk has just shared his tale of woe with you.

And Kirk's cute, and plays it for all it's worth. I hate to admit it, but if he showed up at my door again, I'd be mightily tempted to pull down his jeans. I wanted him to want me because I'm a stud, not a sucker.

Six o'clock rolled around. No Kirk. Of course. Six-thirty. I called his cell phone. Disconnected.

Trick and trust.

Live and learn.

And he was sooo cute. ▼

Simon Sheppard reads from his new book, *In Deep: Erotic Stories*, Friday, September 24 at 7 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro Street.



## LETTERS

## No creativity in 'Cutest' contest

The Cutest in the Castro competition is the San Francisco gay community's latest shining example of the lack of creativity and originality going around today. I think what I like the most about this latest parade of tastefulness is that it walks around under the guise of charity. So the whole point is I guess that dying AIDS patients who wrestle everyday with depression, isolation, sickness, and a feeling of ostracism from the greater gay community at large will have to rely on the dim witted responses of some shirtless, crew-cut, 26-year-old transplant from Dogpatch, Utah in order for them to gain access to the resources they need to live with a life-threatening illness. Yeah, that sounds like a fair trade.

The whole point of charity is that it is a proactive single act of good will toward a person or people in more need than yourself. I like the fact that getting gawked at by drunken bar patrons while you blaze your newly trimmed armpits is considered a charitable act. "Hey, look at how cute I am shouldn't you give a shit about AIDS patients in this town? Look at my ass!"

I'm certainly not one to make any judgments about fundraising events and I have my share of favorite pageants I love to check out. But I'm more of a big-dick contest or hot-chest contest man than a juvenile, lame-ass display of cuteness. What I like the most about those contests is that they're a slap in the face to the conventional notion that you can win fame and attention by smearing Vaseline on your teeth and acting "pretty."

So go ahead and look at how cute everyone in the Castro is. It's all for a good cause. Maybe I'm just bitter because there isn't anything else to do in the Castro except get drunk and buy dildos. But trust me, I've been sucking dick in the Castro since I was 18 years old and I have seen some serious changes in those 10 years. I want a little radical in-your-face queer activism going on here. Those guys paved the way and they deserve a second coming. Plus they're really good in the sack, too.

Gerry Morales  
San Francisco

## Leather Daddies respond

Part of doing anything in San Francisco is dealing with criticism — some of it valid and useful, some of it harsh and unfair. But when it's clearly misdirected and untrue, it must be addressed.

Ken Thomas's letter [*Mailstrom*, September 16] was apparently written without much knowledge of our contest or leather contests in general. To correct a few of the factual errors:

The beneficiary of the event was the AIDS Emergency Fund. A bit more than "our favorite charity," the AEF is actually the de facto owner of the San Francisco Leather Daddy & Daddy's boy titles.

The titles and the contest are administered for AEF by the current Leather Daddy and Daddy's boy with the help of former Daddies and boys. Anyone with concerns or questions could have addressed them to any one of us, face-to-face, at any time.

Leather contests are judged in many, many different ways. As set up by the late Alan Selby, it has been our tradition that judges for both the Daddy and boy contests be former holders of those titles, therefore, two of the five judges on September 5 were former Leather Daddies, one was the outgoing Daddy's boy, and two were independent.

We have complete trust in the judges that were chosen and we will vigorously defend their integrity. We have great respect for all our contestants. Once again, if anyone has interest or concerns we can arrange to meet and go through the contest score sheets and tallies.

The SF Eagle Tavern has been the very generous home of our events for many years, but realistically, any comments about the sound system should be addressed to the bar management.

Our events are open to everyone. In fact, rather than criticize as an uninvolved outsider, we invite those with interest, desire, or experience to work with us, become one of our many event volunteers, or even participate as a contestant in next year's Leather Daddy's boy contest.

Bottom line: The event raised \$3,200 for AEF in less than three hours. Since 1983, these titles average tens of thousands of dollars each year for AEF and other charities. Until other resources are found or until our help is no longer needed, we intend to keep working. Please join us.

Tom Rodgers, SF Leather Daddy IV  
Jason Ladd, SF Leather Daddy VI  
Steve Gaynes, SF Leather Daddy XII  
Loren Berthelson, SF Leather Daddy XIV  
David Meyer, SF Leather Daddy's boy XV  
Andre English, SF Leather Daddy XVII  
Keith Truitt, SF Leather Daddy XVIII  
Bob Dern, SF Leather Daddy's boy XVIII  
Tony Koester, SF Leather Daddy XX  
Will Brunner, SF Leather Daddy's boy XX

Joey Sequeira, SF Leather Daddy's boy XXI  
Doug Mezzacapo, SF Leather Daddy XXII  
Jorge Vieta Jr., SF Leather Daddy's boy XXII

## Mercy Housing responds

After reading your article on the front page of the *Bay Area Reporter* ["Little Mercy for Derek Silva tenants," September 9], we felt it necessary to clarify several facts related to the concerns expressed by residents living at the Derek Silva Community.

First, Catholic Charities CYO has been providing supportive, affordable housing for persons with HIV and AIDS at Derek Silva since 1994 and through the significant efforts of Mercy Housing in 2001 we were able to preserve the Derek Silva for the existing residents, rather than see it sold to the highest bidder, converted to market, and all of the residents losing their housing.

As a part of that acquisition by Mercy Housing, the property has undergone significant renovation aimed at making the apartments a safer, more comfortable, and overall better place to live for the residents.

Residents had the choice to remain in the building during the renovation or move to another location on a temporary basis. Living in your home during a major renovation is never easy and that fact turned out to be the case for those that chose to remain at the Derek Silva as well.

As a part of the relocation of residents that chose to move during the renovation, Mercy Housing prepaid rent to the landlords and some of those landlords had difficulty tracking this prepayment and erroneously issued non-payment and 3-day notices to residents. When notified of these erroneous notices, we took all actions necessary to resolve the issue and no resident was evicted as a result.

And finally, having your home disrupted and/or being temporarily relocated during the renovation of the Derek Silva, as these residents experienced, was difficult and often upsetting. The staff of Mercy Housing and Catholic Charities CYO worked diligently to mitigate the disruption, however, there were certainly times when nothing could be done that would alleviate the situation to the satisfaction of all.

Mercy Housing and Catholic Charities CYO will continue to work with the residents of Derek Silva to resolve problems, respond to concerns and provide an affordable, supportive housing environment for as long as there is the need. And through the positive community spirit and cooperative efforts of many of the residents who live there, we know the Derek Silva Community will be a place to thrive in the future.

Jane Graf, President  
Mercy Housing California  
Brian Cahill, Executive Director  
Catholic Charities CYO  
San Francisco

## HIV work is often thankless

Regarding the tenure of Darlene Weide at the Stop AIDS Project: Let this be a warning. Do not spend years of your life committed to reducing the transmission of HIV. Make no attempt to help a struggling nonprofit remain afloat. Do not become the public face of an HIV prevention agency, responsible for all its successes and failures. You will be attacked mercilessly by a federal government, whose job it should be to support you. You will confront an increasingly indifferent community tired of hearing difficult messages about safety and responsibility. And as you leave your position, you will be further denigrated by mean-spirited, petty, vindictive comments made in public by disgruntled former employees. In the end, you'll regret ever getting involved in the whole mess.

Let's face it: HIV prevention is complicated, taxing, and often thankless work. We should support those who willingly take it on, not tear them down.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting that we never look critically at HIV prevention organizations and call them to task if they aren't living up to their mission. But what purpose does it serve to attack an executive director as she's leaving her job, even in the name of recognizing others' work? It's not "extracting the truth." It's just spiteful. Luckily, Mr. Folger and Mr. Kruger never had to face a public airing of their failures as they left their jobs. And luckily, it seems that the volunteers and staff of the Stop AIDS Project continue to weather these senseless attacks and forge ahead. I hope they all understand the invaluable role they play in our community and I thank them for their hard work.

Justin Louie  
San Francisco

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# Elect to get involved

by Paula Martinac

In response to the presidential-election debacle of 2000, in which both parties reported voting irregularities in a number of key states, a group of concerned Americans created a national, non-partisan voting-rights project called Election Protection 2004. The general election is fast approaching, but there's still time for gay people to join in this volunteer effort to safeguard the foundation of our democracy – the right to vote for our representatives in government.

I don't need to preach to lesbian and gay readers about the importance of voting – we go to the polls in much higher percentages than the American people as a whole. We understand all too well that whoever sits in the Oval Office contributes heavily to setting the climate for gay people in this country. And we know that by giving an enthusiastic stamp of approval to the Federal Marriage Amendment, our current president has officially sanctioned intolerance of lesbians and gay men.

But we may need to be reminded that, for many Americans, voting is an endangered right. And we need to challenge the idea that dis-

cussing voting problems openly and trying to do something about them is just "sour grapes" over the 2000 election or an unwillingness to "get over" its results (which two of my colleagues in the gay media once accused me of). If you have any doubts about how vital it is to question the accuracy and fairness of our voting system, just rent the documentary *Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election*, which outlines in a succinct 50 minutes the mistakes and abuses that led to widespread voter disenfranchisement in Florida four years ago.

The likelihood that the 2004 election will be a close one increases the risk of civil rights violations, especially in the swing states; indeed, there have already been warning signs of polling-place abuse. During the primary in Florida last month, for example, poll watchers reported that many African American voters were turned away for not having identification, and without pollworkers informing them that they could, by state law, simply sign an affidavit attesting to their identity

and then proceed to vote. And that was just the primary – imagine how high the stakes will be for the actual presidential election.

Also, Florida has once again undertaken a purge of convicted ex-felons from its voter rolls, as it did in 2000, when it disenfranchised thousands of voters who had no criminal records at all. It's no accident that this multimillion-dollar effort, in a state headed by the president's brother, has targeted mostly African Americans, who tend to vote Democratic. Understandably, anxiety is running high among voting-rights activists, who

worry in particular about voting equipment. In Ohio, one of the top battleground states, punch-card ballots – made notorious in 2000 for their high margin of error – will be used in 69 of 88 counties. One law professor told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* that a close election in his state could spell an "election night meltdown." Around the country, touch-screen voting, which is being implemented in many areas for the first time and which leaves

no paper trail, is also cause for trepidation. Touted by many congressional Republicans as the answer to all our voting problems, electronic ballots completely – and conveniently – eliminate all possibility of recount and put our most cherished right at the mercy of the corporations that manufacture the equipment and software.

All of this suggests that November 2, 2004, might be a pretty dark day for democracy. But the good news is that there are concrete things we can do now to try to aid the democratic process. First, to ensure that your own vote counts, familiarize yourself in advance with your state's voting procedures and your own rights, which can be found on the Web site of your secretary of state or your county's bureau of elections. Then expand your effort a little by committing to "Take a Friend to Vote," a project of the League of Women Voters, in which citizens pledge to bring a neighbor, friend, or relative to the polls. (For instructions, visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).)

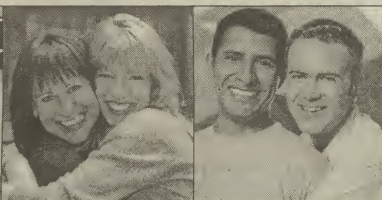
But to make an even greater



Christine Smith

contribution, consider volunteering for Election Protection ([www.electionprotection2004.org](http://www.electionprotection2004.org)), which aims to train and deploy 25,000 citizens as poll watchers in battleground states. TracFone is providing phones and airtime for poll workers to report abuses or to consult with civil rights attorneys if problems arise. While lawyers and law students are particularly needed for this project, all concerned citizens are welcome to volunteer for tasks like handing out voting-rights flyers in the days preceding the election. If you live in Michigan, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, or another swing state, or are able to travel to one of them for Election Day, the time you donate could have a big impact on the accuracy of the election – and on the future well-being of our democracy. ▼

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## News in brief

◀ page 4

community Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m. The workshop will be led by Hayward attorney Jerome Hadley and explore living trusts, durable powers of attorney, advance health care directives, wills, and probate.

In January, AB205 will become effective and the new legislation will greatly expand the rights and responsibilities of registered domestic partners. Saturday's workshop will discuss those changes.

The community center is located at 1217 A street in downtown Hayward and the workshop begins at 2 p.m. For more information, call Frank Howell at (510)

489-0932.

## TG fundraiser

San Francisco TEAM, a new group formally known as the transgender steering committee at the LGBT Community Center, will hold its first fundraiser Tuesday, September 28 at 6 p.m. in the Ceremonial Room at the center, located at 1800 Market Street.

Joanne Keatley, co-chair of San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentorship, said the event will help support future events including Trans Pride 2005 and the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Scheduled speakers include Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), Supervisor Bevan

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## Surprised by win



Pick Gardner

Leilani, left, who competed as Miss Philippines, was surprised as she was announced the winner of the Miss Trans-Globe pageant Saturday, September 18, and is greeted by another contestant, Miss Zaire, Chantelle Paradise. The event was a fundraiser for the Filipino Task Force on AIDS, and the winner becomes the agency's transgender spokesmodel for the next year.



## POLITICS

# Re-elect Tom Ammiano in District 9

by Wayne Friday

Anyone who has read this column for any length of time will tell you that I usually don't agree with Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Ammiano and I have a different view of politics, San Francisco, and much of the world. Indeed, over the years, Ammiano and I often are on different sides of most issues and usually support competing political candidates.



Dist. 9 Supervisor Tom Ammiano

In this upcoming election, however, in what will be Ammiano's final race for supervisor, there's something to be said for experience and wisdom. Ammiano has it all over his opponents in District 9.

Probably more than anyone else in politics today, Ammiano embodies the ballsy, grassroots spirit of the late Harvey Milk. He's held true to the ideals Milk often spoke of: neighborhood control, self-determination, and standing up for what's just and right. There's no question that those ideals have indeed become Ammiano's political trademark.

Frankly, I've lost count of the number of major changes in government and the law that now exist because Ammiano had the political cajones to fight for them. Just about every piece of historic legislation we've seen in the past decade in San Francisco has Ammiano's fingerprints all over it.

Don't get me wrong; there are times I've personally felt the guy was just short of crazy, but the truth is, you rarely find honest, serious, and smart candidates with a fraction of the staying power and fearlessness that Ammiano has demonstrated over the years. Even those who disagree with him will admit that Ammiano is a hard act to follow. This is probably why none of his competitors come close to matching his achievements, ideas, widespread community support, or understanding of government. A few of them have potential as future candidates, but right now, they lack the know-how to get District 9 and the city through the difficult times ahead. In contrast, Ammiano practically writes cutting edge legislation in his head.

You can mark my words: when Ammiano finally leaves the Board of Supervisors, we will mourn the loss. But for now, San Francisco can benefit from four more years of his legendary experience, intelligence, humor, and courage. Ammiano's unwavering commitment to average citizens has been instructive for dozens of political as-

pirants, including many who are candidates and elected officials today.

I suspect that there's still plenty to learn from Ammiano, and the voters in District 9 would be foolish not to re-elect him. With so much insanity and uncertainty in politics today, let's do the smart thing on November 2 — vote to re-elect Tom Ammiano, District 9 supervisor.

## Politics and people

The *Sacramento Bee* ran a feature story Saturday on San Francisco supervisor candidate Robert Haaland (District 5), saying he is widely considered to be among the two or three leading candidates in that race and pointing out that if he wins "he would become the first openly transgender person to win elected office in the country."

The Silicon Valley LGBT Democratic Club endorsed three openly gay candidates and one out lesbian at its recent membership meeting. Those getting the club's nod include Assemblyman John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), who's seeking another term;

and three candidates for nonpartisan races: Jamie McLeod for the Santa Clara City Council; Evan Low for a seat on the Campbell City Council; and John Linder for a seat on the Franklin-McKinney school board in San Jose. Club president Clark Williams noted that McLeod is the first out lesbian candidate for a municipal race in the South Bay.

So you've read all those polls and have joined the suicide watch waiting for George W. Bush to bury John Kerry on November 2, huh? I get e-mails daily, from those appearing to throw in the towel (you reading this, Arthur?) and numerous recent polls are all over the map. The sentiment of most e-mails follows the "woe is us, we're looking at another four more years of Bush," but I'm telling you — no, I'm predicting — that Kerry will surprise everyone and be the next president.

Indeed, over the weekend, two of the nation's most respected polls delivered wildly varying assessments of the presidential race. The Pew Research Center poll calls the race essentially a tie; while the Gallup Poll claims Bush has amassed a 13-point lead over Kerry. The first scheduled debate between Kerry and Bush takes place Thursday, September 30.

Sacramento political watchers don't expect much change in the Legislature after the November 2 elections — the current lineup in the state Senate is 25 Democrats and 15 Republicans; of the 20 seats up in November (its the year for the odd numbered seats) 10 are being forced from office because of term limits, but their replacements likely will hold their seats for their respective parties. In the Assembly, controlled by Democrats 48 to 32, there could be a loser among both the GOP and the Democrats but they would likely offset each other so look for Democrats to retain control of that body as well.

One of my political heroes, filmmaker and writer Michael

Moore, got the boot last week from a planned lecture at California State University San Marcos out of concern that the university would appear to be "taking sides" in the upcoming presidential race, but Moore could care less — he takes off this week on a 40-day, 62-city tour that he hopes will help defeat George Bush in November; his lectures include prizes, voter registration, and an event he calls "Ashcroft karaoke," a jibe at Attorney General John Ashcroft. Incidentally, though the San Diego-area Cal State San Marcos disinvited Moore, the student government now hopes to have Moore lecture at an off-campus location next month and has collected \$11,000 in hall rental expenses.

Also in San Diego, Democrats are confident that out lesbian Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe will hold onto the 39th state Senate district seat being vacated by Senator Dede Alpert (D). A victory would see Kehoe join two other prominent lesbians, incumbent state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) and likely Senate winner Carole Migden (now chair of the Board of

Equalization, who's running for the seat being vacated by San Francisco Democrat John Burton) in the Legislature's upper body.

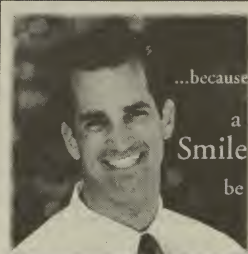
Sacramento wags tell me that with Secretary of State Kevin Shelley's political troubles continuing to pile up, he'll likely not stand for re-election, and that state Senator Jackie Speier (D-Hillsborough), who was running for lieutenant governor, is now thinking of shifting her sights to the secretary of state race in 2006.

And no, I do not support Proposition F on the San Francisco ballot in November. Proposition F would allow non-citizens to vote in School Board races. Want to vote? Become a citizen — it's that simple, folks.

This city has two good Assembly members in Democrats Mark Leno and Leland Yee but too many lawmakers have been getting away with not bothering to vote one way or another on legislation. The progressive Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights is now threatening to sponsor a ballot initiative in 2006 that would in effect deny those legislators their pay when they fail to vote. Hey, those guys get paid \$99,000 annually (plus a healthy daily per-diem, a car, and perks aplenty) for a job they work half a year at, so the least they could do is vote when they do show up. The worst offenders apparently are Assemblyman Jerome Horton (D-Inglewood) who skipped an amazing 60 percent of the votes, and Assemblyman Manny Diaz (D-San Jose), who missed just under 50 percent of the votes.

My "Quote of the Week" (from playwright Tony Kushner, whose AIDS-themed epic miniseries *Angels in America* won a record-breaking 11 Emmys Sunday): "And thanks to my wonderful husband, Mark. Someday soon we can get a legal marriage license and you can make an honest homosexual out of me."

And how was your week? ▼



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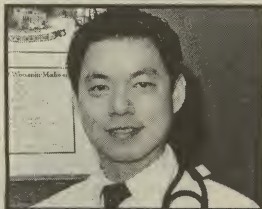
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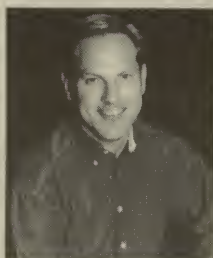
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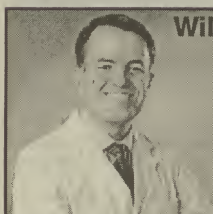
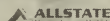
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# Who was Donald Webster Cory?

by Liz Highleyman

September 1913 (91 years ago this month): Edward Sagarin (a.k.a. Donald Webster Cory) is born in Schenectady, New York.

Donald Webster Cory's 1951 book, *The Homosexual in America*, gave U.S. readers their first in-depth look at this previously unrecognized minority. Calling for gay civil rights, Cory insisted that there was "no homosexual problem except that created by the heterosexual society."

Edward Sagarin—the man who would later live a double life as Donald Webster Cory—was born in September 1913 in Schenectady, New York. After his mother died in the 1918 flu epidemic, the family moved to New York City. Sagarin, who had a pronounced hunchback due to scoliosis, was taunted by his peers and always felt like an outsider. After dropping out of college during the Depression, he worked as a secretary for a cosmetics company, eventually mastering perfume chemistry.

Though aware of his homosexual feelings since early adolescence, in 1936 Sagarin married Gertrude Liphshitz, a fellow student leftist. The couple had one son and remained together for 50 years. Sagarin resolved to sever his homosexual ties, but found that "marriage did not reduce the urge for gratification with men." Although he often picked up men for casual sex—apparently with the tacit knowledge of his wife—Sagarin never had a long-term, primary same-sex relationship.

In 1951, under the name Donald Webster Cory, Sagarin published *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach*. Having no formal training in sociology, he wrote the book as a "spiritual autobiography," asserting that "the observations and viewpoints of the homosexual are as essential as those of the psychiatrist, the jurist, or the churchman."

Cory was among the first to claim that homosexuals were similar to other minorities "in the denial of civil liberties ... in the assignment of an inferior social position ... in the exclusion from the mainstream of life and culture." Yet he rejected inflexible categories: "[M]any homosexuals are, in the totality of their lives, not

queer people at all, and many heterosexuals are extremely queer."

Although Cory did not dispute the prevailing notion that homosexuals were psychologically ill, he maintained that they could not be cured. The homosexual, he wrote, "can only make a satisfactory adjustment when he is prepared completely to accept himself and his way of life, without regrets, misgivings, shame, or unconscious defense."

Despite having a small publisher and controversial subject matter, *The Homosexual in America* proved highly popular. The homophile movement regarded Cory as a hero, and he became a sought-after speaker. In the early 1950s, he joined the gay Veterans Benevolent Association and became a contributing editor for the Mattachine Society's *ONE* magazine, but did not formally join the New York Mattachine chapter until 1962.

In the mid-1960s, Cory found himself increasingly alienated from an ever more militant movement. Though his famous book had urged the homosexual to "rise up and demand his rights," when gay men and lesbians took up the challenge, Cory derided their efforts. In particular, he opposed the push to reject the medical model of homosexuality. Apparently under the influence of psychologist Albert Ellis, Cory came to adopt the view that there was no such thing as a well-adjusted homosexual, and he urged gays to undergo therapy in an attempt to become heterosexual.

In 1965, a bitter leadership struggle ensued within the New York Mattachine chapter. Cory was part of a conservative slate that was soundly defeated by more radical members, whereupon he and several other "old guard" members left the group. A disgusted Frank Kameny (a member of the Washington, D.C., Mattachine chapter) wrote to Cory, "[Y]ou have become no longer the vigorous Father of the Homophile Movement, to be revered, respected, and listened to, but the senile Grandfather of the Homophile Movement."

During these years, Sagarin had resumed his education and embarked upon an academic career. He earned his Ph.D. from New York University in 1966 with a scathing dissertation on the Mattachine Society ("Structure

and Ideology in an Association of Deviants"), which did not reveal his own role in the group. Sagarin went on to become a professor of sociology and criminology and a nationally recognized expert on social deviance.

By the late 1960s, Sagarin had completely dissociated himself from the homophile movement. Although not open about his alternate identity, he occasionally dropped hints. During a class in which Sagarin had assigned a reading from *The Homosexual in America*, a student asked the professor what he thought of Cory's ideas. "Mr. Cory and I are of one mind," he answered.

In 1973, Sagarin published a journal article denouncing the gay liberation movement, and the following year he attacked liberationist scholarship during a panel discussion at the annual American Sociological Society conference. Another panel member, Laud Humphreys (author of *Tearoom Trade: Impersonal Sex in Public Places*), subtly revealed Sagarin's identity by "accidentally" calling him "Dr. Cory." "And where did you get your data?" Humphreys demanded. "I am my data," Sagarin replied, choking back tears.

Sagarin died of a heart attack in June 1986, embittered to the end because the gay liberation movement had rejected his leadership and evolved far beyond his once seemingly radical ideas. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at [PastOut@qsyndicate.com](mailto:PastOut@qsyndicate.com).

## Suggested reading

Cory, Donald Webster. 1951. *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach* (Greenberg).

D'Emilio, John. 1983. *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (University of Chicago).

Duberman, Martin. 1999. "The 'Father' of the Homophile Movement." In *Left Out: The Politics of Exclusion, Essays, 1964-2002* (Basic Books).

## Women honored by Lyon-Martin



Dr. Robin Dea, left, and Roma Guy, center, were honored for their work at the fourth annual Barbecue By the Bay, a benefit for Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services held Sunday, September 19 at the Log Cabin in the Presidio. With Guy is Sharon Mills. Dea, a psychiatrist, has long been active in advocating for equality in health care for transgender people, and was involved in designing the transgender medical benefits ordinance for San Francisco city employees. Guy, a member of the San Francisco Health Commission, has long been active in women's issues, including development of the San Francisco Women's Building.

Jane Philomen Ciland



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# City to allow masseurs who work at home

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the police department hands over the permitting of massage therapists to the health department, city officials will now allow masseurs to operate and practice their business out of their own homes.

The allowance for masseurs to operate in residential areas is a change from current city zoning, which states massage therapists can only operate in commercial zones. It should also assuage fears from massage therapists, especially gay men who advertise in-call services online and in community newspapers, who were hesitant to sign up under the new permitting rules for fear of being fined stiff penalties for being in violation of the code.

"The idea of making it available for home-based practice is long overdue. Probably most of the practitioners doing massage are doing it out of their home," said David Palmer, co-chair of the San Francisco Coalition of Therapeutic Massage and Body Work Practitioners, who operates a Web site, [sfordinance.com](http://sfordinance.com), about the

new permit process.

At a meeting Monday, September 13 held by the health department, Palmer raised concerns that the new permitting regulations still did not allow for home-based massage. When asked by a reporter, Dr. Johnson Ojo with the health department did not specifically state the rules permitted in-calls in residential areas.

After the *Bay Area Reporter* questioned Supervisor Bevan Dufty whether he was following through on a promise to carry legislation to allow home-based massage services, Dufty inquired with the city planning department about the matter.

In response, city zoning administrator Larry Badiner said the planning codes could be interpreted in such a way to cover massage therapists who work out of their homes. In an e-mail to Dufty last week, Badiner explained that Planning Code Section 204.1 allows for a "licensed professional" to operate a business out of their home. In the past, this applied to doctors who had offices at home, but Badiner explained that, with the changes in today's health services, the code's exemption has

been broadened to other health care professionals.

Badiner wrote that, "licensed massage practitioners would fall under this provision and would be allowed to operate out of their home. In addition, there is no concern about a licensed massage therapist practicing in the home of a client on a visiting basis."

In a telephone interview, Badiner explained that "operate out of" would cover not only making appointments but also practicing massage in one's home.


"It happens all the time. It is not unusual to have people doing massage out of their homes. We are assuming, of course, this is medical massage," he said.

Dufty said with this interpretation he sees no need to introduce any legislation and is confident the issue has been resolved.

"I am going to be here through the implementation of the new process, so if questions arise, I would sponsor legislation. But I support that interpretation," he said. "I think the health department will do a good job. I encourage people to come forward to get a permit. It is in their best interest."

The health department has said it will ensure the distinctions are made explicit in the massage practitioner and establishments regulations. Palmer said, "There are some questions about where

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**RANDY SOWDER**

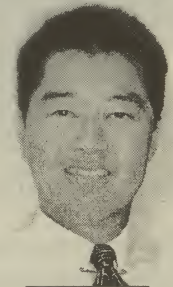
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# Benefit for Castro Country Club

by Ed Walsh

If you are one of those people who complains about the "Starbuckization" of San Francisco, you have a chance to do something about it and in the process get a quality cup of coffee or other nonalcoholic drink, a snack, and now some great locally produced art.

Organizers of an art sale opening next week at the Castro Country Club hope that the fundraiser will provide a significant boost for the nonprofit coffeehouse.

The show opens with a reception on Wednesday, September 29, at 6 p.m., at the club, 4058 18th Street, near Castro. The artwork from at least seven artists will remain on display and for sale for the following four weeks. Proceeds will be split between the artists and the club. Works will include paintings, drawings, photographs, collage, digital images, and composites. Artists include Eric Lindstrom, Patricia McGullam, Chuck Drees, Harvey Weinman, and Greg Lawler, a.k.a. performance artist Kitty Litter.

The Castro Country Club is the oldest coffeehouse in the neighborhood. It opened in 1983. It shut down in September 2000 after the illness of a previous manager and problems scheduling volunteers. It reopened nine months later after reorganizing. Since 1995, it has been operated as a project of Baker Places, a community service organization that specializes in helping people overcome addictions. Consistent with that mission, the club continues to host a number of meetings targeted toward substance abuse and HIV issues affecting the LGBT community.

The Community Advisory

Board, whose members oversee operations at the club, is committed to making the club self-sufficient and eventually independent from Baker Places. The club's manager, Dan Cusick, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the club is currently run at a deficit of about \$300 or \$400 a month. Cusick added that some months it is able to cover its operating expenses, but often does not. He explained that although Baker Places is not threatening to cut CCC's subsidy, the goal is to make the club self-sufficient so that its existence is not dependent on the funding of another organization. Baker Places, he added, faces the same budget crunches as a number of nonprofits.

CCC is soliciting donations and is hoping that more people patronize its coffee shop. What CCC lacks in the polished cookie-cutter appearance of its competition, it makes up in its unique atmosphere, making it a welcoming oasis in the Castro. The multiroom club is located over a garage on the first floor of an old Victorian. The main room features a coffee and espresso bar that serves a variety of snacks and a wide assortment of teas and nonalcoholic beverages. The club also has a TV room, a board game room, and patio.

CCC is staffed entirely by volunteers. As manager, Cusick works full-time and lives in an apartment above the club. Cusick told the *B.A.R.* that although he gets no salary, the club pays for part of his rent. CCC is open from noon to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursdays; Fridays, noon to 1 a.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. To volunteer, donate, or for more information call (415) 552-6102 or check out [www.castrocountryclub.org](http://www.castrocountryclub.org). ▼

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# Hawaii welcomes gay and lesbian visitors

by Ed Walsh

**D**o you want a room with one bed or two?" the friendly desk clerk nonchalantly asked my friend, Herbert Schwarz, and I as we checked into Honolulu's Aloha Surf Hotel.

Homophobia is not unknown in Hawaii, but the clerk's demeanor embodied the "aloha spirit" that is evidenced by a long history of laid-back tolerance. I said it didn't matter and asked for a room on the highest floor available. It had two beds.

We stayed at the budget Aloha Surf frankly because it was a "free gift" for attending a time-share sales presentation back in the Bay Area. Although it doesn't have a reputation for being "gay friendly," a "gay unfriendly" hotel in Hawaii is the exception, not the rule. Readers may recall that Hawaii nearly became the first state to legalize gay marriage before the state Supreme Court finally ruled against gay marriage in 1999.

Honolulu, Hawaii's capital and its largest city, is also the capital of gay life in the state. More specifically, gay life is centered in Waikiki, on the southern end of the Island of Oahu, between downtown Honolulu and the city's signature landmark, the long-dormant volcano, Diamond Head. Like San Francisco, Honolulu is both a city and a county but it encompasses a much larger area. Honolulu includes all 600-plus square miles of the Island of Oahu and several of the micro-islands of Hawaii. According to 2000 census figures, 876,156 people live in Honolulu. That's 72 percent of the state's population.

## Nightlife

Hawaii's best-known gay bar is Hula's (134 Kapahulu Avenue), on the second floor of the Waikiki Grand Hotel. It's on the Diamond Head end of Waikiki Beach. Its wide-open windows feature a sweeping view of the beach toward Queen's Surf Beach, Hawaii's best-known gay beach. The club is open daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. If you can't get enough of the Internet, you can surf the Web for free there. Hula's also features a unique glass-enclosed dance floor, undoubtedly designed to keep loud music from disturbing the hotel guests. To get to Hula's, walk through the lobby of the Waikiki Grand and take the stairs or the elevator to the second floor. I was discreetly looking for the entrance to Hula's when Schwarz yelled to the hotel desk clerk, "Where's the gay bar?" With a welcoming smile, she directed us upstairs.

The other major gay clubs in Hawaii are Angles (2256 Kuhio Avenue) and its next-door neighbor Fusion (2260 Kuhio Avenue). The clubs are 8/10 of a mile west of Hula's and an easy walk. Like Hula's, the clubs are on the second level. Also like Hula's, Angles is open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. and offers free Web surfing, dancing, and a number of special events. Its rooftop patio features a good view of the bustling nightlife on Kuhio Avenue. Fusion is busiest when Angles closes and also offers dancing. It features a number of special events, karaoke, and shows including the "Men of Fusion" and "gender-bender" revues.



San Franciscan Herbert Schwarz overlooking Queen's Surf Beach in Hawaii.

Other smaller gay clubs include the In Between (2155 Lau'ula Street). Like its name implies, its between Hula's and Angles/Fusion. It's open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., features karaoke, and is popular with locals.

The Michelangelo bar (444 Hobron Lane), near the Hilton Village side of Waikiki beach, is part of the Eaton Square shopping complex. It's the only gay bar in Hawaii that opens at 6 a.m.

Michelangelo's neighbor is P10A, a sex club for men that features a nude dance show on Friday and Saturday nights at midnight. In keeping with the theme is P10A's fourth floor neighbor, Max's Gym/Men's Club, a bathhouse and gym.

By the way, if you're in Eaton Square, be sure to check out 80% Straight, a popular gay gift shop and bookstore.

Black Garter Cafe is Oahu's only lesbian club. It's open every Friday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. The location varies. Call the information hotline at (808) 531-4140.

The Women's Monthly Movie Mavens group shows a lesbian/gay film on the third Thursday of every month at The Center (Hawaii's LGBT center), 2424 S Beretania. It is a potluck and starts at 6:30 p.m. The center's Web site includes a number of other special gay/lesbian events: [www.TheCenterHawaii.org](http://www.TheCenterHawaii.org).

Popular Saturday night-only gay clubs include Fresh @ Level 2, 2301 Kuhio Avenue (808-955-4852, [www.bigtopresents.com](http://www.bigtopresents.com)) and Venus, 1349 Kapiolani Boulevard (808-955-2640).

## Outdoor life

Queen's Surf Beach is Hawaii's best-known gay beach. It gets its name from Hawaii's past, when it was a monarchy, not from the slang term for the beach's present patrons. The beach is at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki beach, across from the Kapiolani Park and Zoo, opposite the park's concession stand.

Lighthouse Beach is a gay-popular nude beach. It is between Queen's Surf Beach and Diamond Head, off Diamond Head Road, just below and to the left of the lighthouse. But be warned that nudity is technically illegal, so if you see police, discreetly cover up.

## Getting there

The cheapest roundtrip airfare between the Bay Area and Honolulu will run you about \$380 but

keep watching the airline sales. In the past year, fares have been as low as \$300. Competition from the upstart ATA has kept the fares low. You can also find low fares through companies like Suntrips or Pleasant Hawaiian Holidays but you won't get frequent flier miles and you won't have as much flexibility in your travel times and dates.

## Getting around

There are no trains or streetcars in Honolulu but the city runs an extensive bus service. Adult fare is \$2. Ask for a transfer. It's good for two hours but can be used only once. Complete schedules can be found on [www.TheBus.org](http://www.TheBus.org) or call (808) 848-5555. You can take a circle bus around the island for a long but inexpensive self-guided tour. A number of

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## Information

For detailed directions to the gay beaches and listings of clubs and gay-friendly accommodations throughout Hawaii, pick up a copy of *Odyssey* magazine when you arrive, or check out its Web site: [www.odysseyhawaii.com](http://www.odysseyhawaii.com).

Another great source of information on all things gay in Hawaii is Honolulu's LGBT center: [www.thecenterhawaii.org](http://www.thecenterhawaii.org) or (808) 951-7000.

Gay information for Maui, including Maui Lesbian News: [www.mauigayinfo.com](http://www.mauigayinfo.com).

The Cabana at Waikiki's Web site also includes a list of links and tour information: [www.cabana-waikiki.com](http://www.cabana-waikiki.com).

Hula's bar: [www.hulas.com](http://www.hulas.com). Angles bar: [www.angleswaikiki.com](http://www.angleswaikiki.com).

## Gay dates

Volcano circuit party. February 25-27 2005. Held in Honolulu and benefits the Maui AIDS Foundation. Info: [www.volcanoparty.com](http://www.volcanoparty.com) or 1-877-242-4900.

Pride weekend in Honolulu. June 23, 24, and 25 2005. Parade will be down the center of Waikiki, festival at McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Beach Park. Contact the LGBT center for more information [www.thecenterhawaii.org](http://www.thecenterhawaii.org).



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## Healthy Penis

◀ page 2

AIDS Project's Condoms Now! campaign.

"We certainly understand the aesthetic needs the establishments have," said SAP communications director Jason Riggs. "If people are concerned about not having places to display there are certainly ways around that. Because of increasingly difficult economics—shrinking funds—getting the word out is more cost prohibitive. It's really about everyone communicating and challenges understood."

Steve Gibson, director of Magnet, who developed SAP's condom program in 1990, argues that responsibility lies with nonprofits and health agencies to accommodate merchants.

"You need to think like a business owner," said Gibson. "It's perfectly reasonable to say no to something that will just make your business messy. Cards get blown around. Get input. Ask bar owners, 'Do you have space?'"

Gibson said that when developing the SAP's condom program he sought bar owners' input on every aspect of the displays, including condom bucket and poster sizes.

Popular safe sex campaign posters have a high "souvenir rate," said Gibson and often end up posted on kitchen refrigerators.

Another SAP employee agreed that with events and organizations constantly jockeying for community members' attention—from penny jars to circuit party palm cards—those groups must cooperate with merchants.

"Establishments differ," said SAP's South of Market neighborhood outreach organizer Teddy Partridge, who distributes a variety of condoms, lubricant blister packs, and workshop calendars and developed its "Homeland Security" condom bowl signage. "In some businesses, it's the first thing people see, their first impression."

"Our contract with the city is that we execute a one-page memorandum each year, a letter that explains our program and tells [business owners] what we provide," Partridge said. "When the [staff] sits down with the business owner we ask what they need us to do. Do they want us to fill [the condom containers]? Do they have place to store them?"

"Counter space is a problem," said Folsom Gulch manager Chris Davis. "They need something to keep it in a neat and orderly fashion. Maybe offer some type of

card holder, or suggestions for displaying them better, instead of just giving us a stack."

Davis instructs newly trained employees to give patrons a condom with their coupons before entering the video arcade, said Partridge. A condom fishbowl sits next to the arcade entrance.

"They have to be exposed to everybody," said Ernesto Zepeda, a 21-year employee of Polk Street's Frenchy's and the Locker Room adult video stores.

"That's always a problem at a bar," said a Trax employee who identified himself as "J.J." "You just do the best you can."

"I've never seen it," said Metro owner Richard Pearson, when questioned about the bar's absence of DPH material.

"No one drops any off," said Detour bartender A.J. Johnson. "I wouldn't mind if they're here."

DPH officials said they do work with venues.

"We usually work closely with each venue about displaying our materials," said Jacqueline Siller, DPH's community-based STD services director, via a faxed statement. "All of the venues have an area where other promotional materials are displayed and we place the STD prevention in the same areas. Space is limited in

some bars and oftentimes they do not want tape or things mounted on their wall. Every venue is different. We anticipate supplying display cases to those bars that are open to it within the next month. In the past we left materials on the bar counters. Recently, we began distributing materials to people that want them and only leaving a few items in the display area to eliminate the waste."

Despite the department's failure to creatively accommodate jam-packed bars, more sedate watering holes such as the Pendulum and the Pilsner have shelving systems built for a variety of periodicals and event flyers where the DPH material sits undisturbed.

"They've certainly handled us well," said one Castro business manager wary of health department "finger pointing" despite giving the agency high marks for distribution. "You can't just let them put it anywhere. That's not how business works."

"We'd have to see what it looks like, you know, if the size would be appropriate," said Badlands owner Les Natali about the possibility of a safe sex information card display. "I don't have any objection to providing materials." He received posters from the health department this week.

Popular LGBT Web site PlanetOut.com has also provided reduced or free ad space for DPH STD information and features STD prevention director Dr. Jeffrey Klausner's STD Q&A column.

"Being in the Bay Area, we work with the Department of Public Health a lot," said PlanetOut's editor in chief, Beth Calahan. "We're thrilled to run ads but all ads have to meet a certain criteria on the homepage from Fortune 500s to nonprofits to underwear ads. They must be acceptable and accessible for this really diverse community, from 60-year-old lesbians to a 15-year-old in Topeka," said Calahan.

The Healthy Penis campaign "originally started with \$45,000 to create the campaign," said DPH's Siller. "We have been able to cut cost for this project because Los Angeles, has the 'Stop the Sores' project and now Seattle has duplicated the Healthy Penis campaign. We have been able to share costs on most of the promotional items."

Siller said that printing the material costs between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

"This year our program had a presence at Carnivale, Dore Alley, Hairrison fairs, and will attend Folsom and Castro fairs," she added. ▼

## Needle bill

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needles and syringes are used outside of healthcare settings. Most of these needles are improperly stored and then placed into trash or recycling containers, posing serious health risks to the public.

SFAF, Walgreens, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and other health and labor groups assisted Vasconcellos in researching the bill.

"Walgreens was very cooperative at working to achieve safer disposal," said Van Gorder.

The Marin Treatment Center, Waste Management, Equality California, Kaiser Permanente, and other civil rights groups supported the bill.

"Waste Management also believes it's good for needle disposal to be occurring slightly above ground, to remove people's incentive to dispose in a less than safe manner," said Van Gorder.

The California Narcotic Officers' Association and the Capitol Resource Institute opposed it.

"The Narcotics Officers' Association led the charge," said Van Gorder. "Their principal concern, although completely contradicted by the facts, is that it will increase crime. They philosophically oppose anything that appears to condone drug use."

Studies show that permitting possession of syringes protects police officers from needle-stick injuries because the user will not be as likely to hide syringes if stopped by police.

"They were never particularly impressed that it will also protect peace officers," he said.

The governor also vetoed a bill, AB2871 by Assemblywoman Patty Berg (D-Eureka), to eliminate the requirement by needle exchange counties to declare a local health emergency every few weeks. The requirement is a barrier to creating lifesaving exchange programs in nine other state counties, advocates said.

"Nine counties would approve it if they didn't have to square off against opponents of needle exchange every three weeks when the county renewed the emergency declaration," said Van Gorder, adding that the 14 state counties that do allow needle exchange cover 70 percent of the population. ▼

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# Studds to be honored for his leadership

by Matthew S. Bajko

On August 12 when New Jersey Governor James McGreevey announced he was a "gay American," acknowledged having had an extramarital affair with a man, and would resign this November, the phone at Gerry Studds's Boston home began ringing.

Reporters wanted to know if Studds, a 12-term Democratic congressman from Massachusetts, would comment on the revelations

stunning the nation. McGreevey's televised coming out took place practically 21 years and one month to the day when Studds was outed on the floor of the House of Representatives for having an affair with a teenage male page.

"They asked me for comment but I just ducked them. It is one of the luxuries of not being in office," Studds said Friday, September 17 in a telephone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*. "My impression at the time, from what stories I read from New Jersey, was it's a

whole complex thing and we didn't know everything."

How Studds handled his own political sex scandal turned him into a hero to many LGBT people. Next week he will be in San Francisco to receive a Cornerstone Award as an LGBT leader in politics from the Horizons Foundation. His friend, former Ambassador James Hormel, will present Studds with the award, the first time he will be honored by a gay organization outside of his home state. His first honor came from Boston's Fenway Community Health Center.

"To my great embarrassment they named an award after me. Each year I present the Gerry Studds Visibility Award. It is hard to give something in your own name," said Studds, 67, before adding "both are a source of great pride."

As the circumstances surrounding McGreevey's sexual orientation dredge up Studds's past, his friends make a clear distinction between the two men. For one thing, Studds refused to be ashamed for being gay and never once thought he should resign.

"I wouldn't draw any comparison with McGreevey or others. In 1983 it was a very difficult situation," said Hormel. "Instead of backing away from the accusations and insinuations, Gerry addressed them directly and then he went to his constituents and said 'I have done my best to represent you and will continue to do so with your kind support,' and they supported him."

On July 14, 1983 the House Ethics Committee announced that Studds had a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old male page in 1973. Along with Studds, the committee also disclosed that Representative Dan Crane (R-Illinois) had slept with a 17-year-old female page in 1980. Both men admitted the charges were true, and that day Studds came out of the closet.

Six days later, on July 20, the full House voted to censure the two, the first time that ever happened for sexual misconduct, according to the *Washington Post*. Crane, married and the father of six, was tearful in his apology to the House, while Studds refused to apologize.

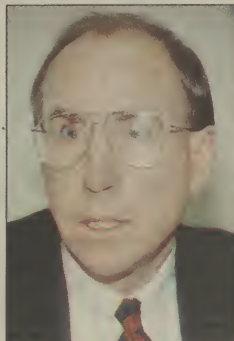
Instead, he held a news conference with the male page standing by his side, denouncing the vote and saying his private life was no one else's business. Overnight Studds became a gay hero to many and became the first openly gay person serving in Congress.

"Absolutely I think he is a gay hero," said Supervisor Bevan Duffy, a longtime friend of Studds. "I worked on Capitol Hill when the report of the relationship between Congressman Studds and a page surfaced. Ironically, their relationship had occurred more than 10 years before the investigation by the ethics committee."

Duffy said he still clearly recalls that moment in time and to this day remains impressed with Studds's composure and courage standing up to his critics.

"Gerry had a sense of history and a presence where he walked down and acknowledged he was gay and proud of who he was. Some people felt he should have been apologetic in some ways and he wasn't," said Duffy. "I just think he had a real sense of that historic moment and I thought he carried himself with an incredible amount of dignity."

Roger Doughty, executive director of Horizons, said he re-



Garry Studds during a 1993 visit to San Francisco.

members being 21 and just coming out at the time. A college student in Massachusetts, Doughty said Studds's ordeal left a lasting impression on him.

"I was just a gay man beginning to awaken to political consciousness. I was just dealing with coming out so to have somebody who is a member of Congress come out and run for re-election and win—and be non apologetic about who he was—was tremendously important," said Doughty, who was interning in Washington, D.C., at the time. "It was important to me as an individual and I know to millions of people who were in the closet or who had already taken steps out of the closet."

Asked about what it is like to be considered a hero in the gay community, Studds said, "I don't know how to answer that. Given my age and the era I grew up in and the circumstances of how people first heard of me, I am grateful it turned out that way."

## Fondness for SF

Studds, who shares a home with his husband Dean Hara, 47, in Boston's South End, also has a special fondness for San Francisco. In late 1983 or early 1984, he can't quite remember the year, he came to the city to fundraise for his re-election campaign.

"I didn't know if I knew what to expect at all. What I found was an overwhelming sense of warmth and support," he recalled. "I remember very clearly having in my possession a letter signed by a great many people in San Francisco, perhaps 100 or more. It quoted a song from some musical. The words were something like, 'When you walk through a storm hold your head up high. I had that with me through some very tough times. It is very special to me.'"

[The song is called "You'll never Walk Alone" from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*. The actual lyrics go: When you walk through a storm / Keep your chin up high / And don't be afraid of the dark. / At the end of the storm / Is a golden sky / And the sweet silver song of a lark.]

Studds soldiered on through that year to win re-election in November with 56 percent of the vote. His district covered Cape Cod and the conservative Portuguese enclave of New Bedford, the largest city he represented. Crane did not fair as well; his conservative district voted him out of office. Three years later, Studds was joined in Congress by Barney Frank, another gay representative from Massachusetts.

"Our caucus doubled. I always said it was the one with the greatest potential for growth," joked Studds. "And lo and behold it

quadrupled" referring to the addition of Democrat Tammy Baldwin, a lesbian from Wisconsin and Republican Jim Kolbe, a gay man from Arizona, to the ranks. Like Studds, both Kolbe and Frank came out in office amidst controversy, while Baldwin ran as an out candidate.

In 1992, having already served 20 years in Congress, Studds thought it might be time to retire. But after talking with Hara, who pointed out if Bill Clinton became president he would regret not running, Studds decided to campaign for re-election. Clinton swept into office that November and with Democrats controlling the House, Studds became the first and only gay person to chair a congressional committee, the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

At Clinton's inaugural, Studds fondly remembers looking at Hara sitting on the Capitol steps in a section reserved for spouses of senior congressional members. "He was the only one [who was] not a woman with gray hair," joked Studds. "We were speaking with Clinton at the inaugural who put his arms around us. I looked at Dean and he looked at me, and we thought 'Yeah, we were right.'"

Soon, however, Studds found himself at odds with Clinton's support of the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays and lesbians serving in the military and the president's signing of the Defense of Marriage Act. With the ascension of Newt Gingrich to leader of the House Republicans, Studds said collegiality in the House led to acrimony.

"After the first two Gingrich years, the ability to get things done in a collegial fashion virtually went away," he said.

His committee was disbanded, and in 1996, Studds decided his time to retire had come.

"I miss the district. I don't miss Washington one bit. I was very grateful to get out of there," he said. "My partner tortures me when he turns on C-Span."

The two men have since sold their home in Provincetown and recently moved into a new house four blocks down from their former Boston address. Together for 19 years, they married on May 24, one week after same-sex marriage became legal in Massachusetts.

"We figured we would wait a week for a lot of reasons but mainly we didn't want to walk into a bank of cameras. We didn't want a lot of public hoopla," he said. "We went down to City Hall in Boston on the 18th. There was not a single camera or reporter in sight. There was no one in line and the city clerk said to me, 'Hi Gerry.' It had already become routine."

He said he suspects by the time a referendum to ban gay marriages makes it before Massachusetts voters in 2006 there won't be much support.

"By that time there will be nobody in Massachusetts who doesn't know someone who is married. It is awful hard to be against it when it is your family or friend," said Studds. "At noon tomorrow if every person who was gay in America stood up, it would be all over."

As for the state's governor, Mitt Romney, who tried to block the weddings from happening and is pushing the referendum to outlaw gay marriage, Studds had nothing kind to say.

"I haven't had any kind

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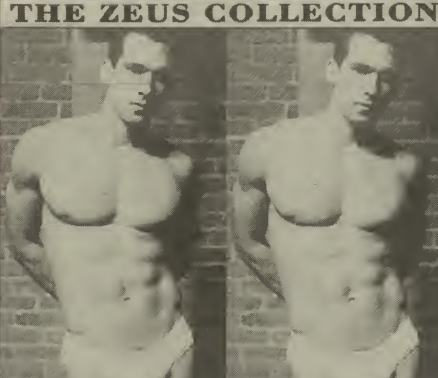
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Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior** have been reported by a small number of patients taking Sustiva. There have been a few reports of suicide but it is not known if Sustiva was the cause.
- **If you have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**

- **Dizziness, trouble sleeping or concentrating, drowsiness, and/or unusual dreams** are common. These feelings tend to go away after taking Sustiva (efavirenz) for a few weeks.
- **Pregnancy:** Women should not become pregnant or breastfeed while taking Sustiva.
- **Rash** is a common side effect that usually goes away without any change in your medicines. Rash may be a serious problem in some children.
- **If you have liver disease, have ever had seizures, or are taking medicine for seizures,** your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver or check drug levels in your blood.

**Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

**Other common side effects** of Sustiva taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

You should take Sustiva on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime, which may make some side effects less bothersome.



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Please see Important Information about SUSTIVA on the next page.

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**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz). Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

#### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 1 (HIV-1), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI). NNRTIs are not used in the treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus type 2 (HIV-2) infection.

SUSTIVA (efavirenz) works by lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4+ cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

**Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

**Common side effects.** Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

**Rash is common.** Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea.

**Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

#### How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

##### General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

##### Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200-mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).

##### Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

#### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

#### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

## R ONLY

#### What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. **Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

#### Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver or have hepatitis.** Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures** [for example, Dilantin® (phenytoin), Tegretol® (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]. Your doctor may want to check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

#### What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA?

**SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects.** Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

#### MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafertog®)

The following medicine should not be taken with SUSTIVA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from SUSTIVA:

- Vlend® (voriconazole)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA (efavirenz):

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir)
- Methadone
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate). If you are taking SUSTIVA and REYATAZ, you should also be taking Norvir® (ritonavir).
- Zolof® (sertraline)

**These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.**

#### General advice about SUSTIVA:

**Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.**

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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## Folsom St. Fair

◀ page 1

out of New York.

The owner of several boutique European leather stores, a former publisher and a colleague, once called it a "sunset market" and closed his U.S. operations.

Ask for possible cause and effect and you will likely get as many answers as people asked. The Internet has certainly become a great influence, but has failed so far to replace either the commerce or the camaraderie that it displaced. The health crisis (or at least the sense of crisis) has faded with both advantage and consequence. Nationally, we face an increasingly conservative baby boomer generation. Sexless mainstream gay agendas and obsession with youth make the cultural icons of a sexual revolution seem archaic and quaint. All of which point to an uncertain leather landscape – and for many, change is more frightening than any number of whips, chains, or pierced tongues.

### A bright spot

One of the few bright spots is the Folsom Street Fair itself. It has defied the trends. As tourism declined, the fair actually grew. As other leather events are forced to reevaluate and downsize, Folsom is expanding and testing the limits of Folsom Street Events Inc., the organization that produces the Folsom Street Fair and the Up Your Alley Street Fair that precedes it in July.

They are, by every measure, successful. The events continue to be profitable, last year contributing \$246,000 back to community beneficiaries. Darryl Flick, FSE operations manager, reports that 2004 Folsom vendor spaces (kept to around 250 booths for manageability) are sold out with exhibitors from as far as Paris, Canada, Mexico, and Australia. Depending on how you define local, between 25-50 percent of the exhibitors are San Francisco or Bay Area businesses or organizations.

"I don't know if realistically or logistically, the fair can get much bigger," said Sally McDonnell, FSE board president. "It occupies an incredible amount of real estate." Gate receipts, beverage sales, and sponsorships are all up – which are not only elements of a healthy bottom line but also attest to the enduring popularity of this dynamic nonprofit event.

The influx of hundreds of thousands of visitors is a shot in the arm for city tax revenues and local businesses. "Merchants have told us point-blank," according to Flick, "Christmas isn't in December for them, it's in September and October."

FSE acquired rights to the Mag-nitude party in 2003 and made inroads recently with a reluctant San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Efforts to clarify and solidify their branding have made it possible to export the "Folsom Formula." There has been a Folsom East in New York for some time; last year was the first Folsom North in Toronto and this year saw the first Folsom Europe in Berlin. Each local group runs its own affairs, but pays a small licensing fee to use the famous name and in turn receives some of the pooled experience and marketing power.

Flick explained the basic requirements as, "you've got to play by the rules of your city, you don't want to alienate anybody, and money has to go to charity – in a nutshell."

"We wanted to help the events, but we wanted them to grow up to be their own Folsoms. We wanted each one to take on its own flavor,"

said Flick, "and they are all quickly evolving their own character."

The franchises reinforce the reputation of the "Big Daddy" of civic leather/fetish events, bringing tourists back to San Francisco to see the original. The fair is much of how San Francisco is viewed by an international leather community. In a changing environment, it is a constant and the FSE board is unusual, one of few remaining opportunities to put aside differences, factions, and segregations and work together for a common goal.

"That's what makes this board unique," explained Flick, "that we put all the gender and preferences aside, to put on a fair."

That is not without its challenges, according to McDonnell, "We keep looking at ways to do things better, to streamline, to save money. Our costs have gone up exponentially in the last few years, so we are always trying to find ways to cut costs so that we can give a lot back to the charities." On the revenue side, McDonnell reports on the search for sponsorship dollars among "local businesses who have suffered a lot and are just trying to hang in there until the better times." Time and energy are also finite resources among an all-volunteer board.

While sharing the experience and expertise of the past 20 Folsom Street Fairs is gratefully accepted in Toronto or Berlin, that is not necessarily true among hometown folks. "We have never understood why, when we put on such a large event, and we are never asked for our opinion by the local community," said Flick.

The opportunity to translate Folsom's success into other San Francisco projects may come soon enough. McDonnell spoke of "one of the things we started doing last year – and will do again this year – is supporting the efforts of the city to put together a safe Halloween experience." As this and other ideas are discussed, she suggested, "What we can bring to that is our experience in volunteer training and orientation, staffing – such as how many people you need at each gate – and how to get that in place."

"We've had a big two years," said McDonnell, which indicates that perhaps "change" can occasionally be defined as "progress." ▼

Robert Davolt is the former publisher of *Drummer* magazine and the author of the recently released *Painfully Obvious: An Irreverent & Unauthorized Manual for Leather/SM*.

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# FMA heads for House

by Bob Roehr

**S**ocial conservatives are pushing for a vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment in the U.S. House of Representatives as part of the strategy to turn out their electoral base. That vote could come as early as the week of September 27.

Supporters couldn't even muster a majority vote in the Senate to close off debate on the measure in July, and a two-thirds vote is required to pass a constitutional amendment. Opponents would like to see the same outcome in the House but the situation is fluid and they are wary of making any predictions about even blocking adoption of the amendment.

"The extremists are working to ensure a vote in the House on the FMA," Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, told reporters on a September 17 conference call. "We all know that this is nothing but a political effort to draw attention away from

Congress's failure to do something about the economy, health care costs, and national security."

She said the Republican leadership wants to highlight gay marriage as a wedge issue but not end the session on that note. The closing issues will be national security. "They are walking that tightrope on how far they can push it back and not have it bite them."

"We need to send a message that playing politics with people's lives is wrong. We need to discourage future votes on this issue by showing that it's a waste of time," she said. Jacques said the entire community — its friends and allies — must put pressure on Congress, "We know the other side is putting pressure on."

Only 144 votes are needed to block adoption of a constitutional amendment in the House. While Democrats are in the minority, they do have 208 members and could easily block the FMA on their own.

HRC legislative director Christopher Labonte said, "The Democratic leadership has been

working their members hard. But this is an election year and members are hearing from volumes of their constituents."

The House passed the Marriage Protection Act of 2004 on July 22 by a vote of 233 to 194. It would strip federal courts of the authority to deal with issues concerning gay marriage.

"We heard people say, 'I've got to vote for this because I'm going to be with you on the FMA and I need [political] cover,'" Jacques said. Labonte believes that most of the people who used that argument to vote for the MPA will vote against the FMA.

Anti-FMA leadership on the Republican side of the aisle is coming from openly gay Representative Jim Kolbe (Arizona) and Representative Nancy Johnson (Connecticut).

Social conservatives led by James Dobson and Focus on the Family implemented "Battle for Marriage III," a satellite hookup and webcast on Sunday, September 19, to rally their supporters to contact members of Congress. ▼

## Hawaii

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tour bus companies offer excursions for every taste and budget. Various tour companies offer a wide variety of day and overnight trips to the other Hawaiian Islands.

Getting to and from Honolulu's airport is easy and inexpensive. The Airport Waikiki Express Shuttle Service fare is \$8 from the airport to any hotel in Waikiki. If you're traveling light, you can take a city bus from the airport but your luggage must be able to fit under the seat in front of you and the trip makes a lot of stops, so it will take a little longer than a shuttle. A taxi from the airport to Waikiki will run you about \$30.

### Accommodations

The Cabana at Waikiki is a perfect choice for gay travelers. It's located at 2551 Cartwright Road. Cartwright is a quiet side street and a short walk to Hula's and Angles/Fusion. By the way, San Franciscan Lee Fitzgerald owns it. Even if you're not staying there, be sure

to stop by its concierge desk. The hotel's marketing and tour director, David Tobias, will be happy to point you in the direction of all things gay and not so gay in Hawaii. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the gay catamaran trip is not to be missed. It only costs \$10 to \$16 for a two-hour cruise of up to 40 people. Groups depart from Hula's on Saturdays and Angles on Sunday. The Cabana has 15 suites. Amenities include a Jacuzzi and continental breakfast in its backyard patio area. Tobias said that about 95 percent of the Cabana guests are gay men and that lesbians or others who want to be in a gay environment are welcome. For information and reservations for the gay catamaran trip call Hula's at (808) 923-0669 or Angles at (808) 926-9766. The Cabana can be reached at (808) 926-5555 or toll free at (877) 902-2121. Rates range from \$129 to \$175 but it's currently running a special of \$99 for its lowest priced suite. Contact the hotel for availability.

Other gay-friendly hotels in Honolulu include the Waikiki Grand Hotel (the home of Hula's),

and the nearby Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel, the Park Shore Hotel, and the Queen Kapiolani Hotel.

You can stay at a budget hotel in Honolulu for as little as \$55 but don't expect a lot from a low-end hotel. Rates at the Aloha Surf, where we stayed, start at about \$60. The rooms there are small but include a balcony. Unlike many other budget hotels, it was recently remodeled and in good shape.

### Outside Oahu

Although there are no exclusively gay nightclubs in Hawaii outside of Waikiki, there are a number of gay organizations on the other islands as well as a wealth of gay-friendly accommodations. At least three of the other Hawaiian Islands have sections of beaches that are gay. The Kona side of the Island of Hawaii, a.k.a. the Big Island, has a "gay section" on the far end of Honokohau Beach, off Highway 19. Maui also has a gay section in its Makena Beach. Kauai's gay beach is on the north end of Donkey Beach, along Highway 55, near mile marker 11. ▼

## Swaggart

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died."

Audience members reacted with applause, according to the report. The show, broadcast on Canada's Omni 1, was taped at Swaggart's ministry in New Orleans. Louisiana voters on Saturday overwhelmingly passed an amendment to the state constitution banning same-sex marriage. The show also appears on U.S. television stations.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on Monday issued a strong statement condemning Swaggart's comments and calling on Christian fundamentalist organizations to do the same. Groups led by James Dobson's Focus on the Family took part in a live simulcast program Sunday, September 19 to call on Congress to pass the Federal Marriage Amendment. That program was heard in churches, and on radio and television stations throughout the country.

Loralei Coyle, a spokeswoman for the Family Research Council,

told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday that Swaggart was not part of the Sunday simulcast.

"The leaders of major organizations heading the campaign to deny same-sex couples equal marriage rights frequently say that they do not hate gay people and that they respect us as human beings," said Matt Foreman, executive director of NGLTF. "Just last night in a national simulcast to oppose same-sex marriage, for example, Focus on the Family President Dr. James Dobson said, 'I'm not here to cast aspersions on homosexuals ... they need our acceptance and respect. ... We are not hateful people.'"

"The task force calls upon the leaders of last night's simulcast to immediately denounce antigay violence and specifically repudiate evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's statement," Foreman said.

Thom Lynch, executive director of San Francisco's LGBT Community Center, had harsh words for Swaggart.

"I went to a Pentecostal Bible college," Lynch said. "I know there are many closeted gay men and les-

bians sitting in Swaggart's congregation. And I know how many of his listeners will find justification for their hatred in his words. His comments are beyond reprehensible and are irresponsible in the extreme."

The B.A.R. contacted the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family Tuesday seeking comment. After receiving indications that senior officials from the two organizations would call back, no calls were received by press time.

In an interview this week with the *Times-Picayune* in Louisiana, Swaggart said he regretted the remark, and was using it as a "figure of speech."

"It was a tongue-in-cheek statement best left unsaid," Swaggart told the newspaper. "I won't make it any more."

He dismissed suggestions that his remarks could encourage violence against gays and lesbians, according to the paper.

In Canada, an investigation by the Canadian Radio Television Commission was prompted by a complaint from a viewer in Ottawa, 365gay.com reported. ▼



# Gay marriage ban wins big in Louisiana

by Bob Roehr

Louisiana voters went to the polls Saturday, September 18 and, by 78 to 22 percent, opted to amend their state constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.

Gay and lesbian leaders acknowledged that similar measures on the November ballot likely will pass in up to 11 other states, but a handful of states look less grim than others. They discussed those plans with reporters in a September 19 conference call arranged by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"All across the country our community is very much the underdog," said Matt Foreman, executive director of NGLTF. "In every one of those instances we are the underdog in terms of people and resources. We believe strongly that if we have the time and the resources to talk to people about this issue that we could win these."

"We're in the deep South, the Bible Belt. Once you step out of New Orleans, things become rapidly different," said Tim Hornback, executive director of the Forum for Equality PAC and Foundation in Louisiana.

"We took it on the chin and we lost, but we also won," he added. "We have a stronger infrastructure now. We now have groups throughout the state" where none existed before.

The pro-gay forces in Louisiana ran their campaign on less than \$50,000, which Foreman called, "Not even a drop in the bucket." Most of that went into legal maneuvers trying to keep the measure off the ballot.

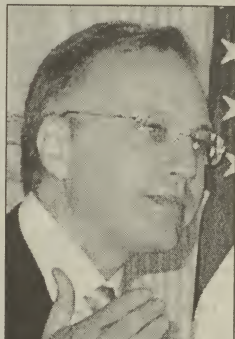
Louisiana law says that a constitutional amendment can only address a single issue and opponents have argued that the measure that passed addressed two issues and therefore should be declared void. That lawsuit will be filed shortly.

Foreman said the state amendments are being pushed by social conservatives as a way to turn out the vote to support their candidates. "By that measure they failed" in Louisiana, he argued. "This hot button issue did not turn out the electorate in the way they thought." Only 28 percent of registered voters turned out on Saturday, compared with 49.5 percent last year when more issues and contested races were on the ballot.

Dave Fleischer, NGLTF's director of organizing and training, said Louisiana and the earlier losing battle in Missouri "tell us where we start on the issue of same-sex marriage with the American public. But they don't tell us where we are going to finish" if the LGBT community runs strong campaigns to change those attitudes.

"It is clear that a majority of states are going to vote on this issue by 2007. This is really the first national referendum our country has ever had on any issue," Fleischer said. "Turning back even one of these antigay ballot measures illustrates our potential to change hearts and minds and votes on this issue."

He cautioned against relying exclusively on the courts on this issue. Historically the courts do not like to get too far ahead of public opinion as reflected at the



NGLTF's Matt Foreman

ballot box. The community must show at least some popular support for gay marriage, advocates said.

## Hope in Oregon

Oregon is shaping up as the strongest hope to defeat an anti-gay amendment. Aisling Coghlan, manager of the No on 36 campaign, said Oregon is different because "we have fought four anti-gay ballot measures" dating from 1988. The community lost that first fight but came back to win the subsequent battles.

That first campaign "really started a conversation with Oregon voters about GLBT issues," Coghlan said. The three later victories demonstrated that Oregon voters "don't want to treat gay and lesbian Oregonians unequally."

The legacy of 16,000 donors and more than 5,000 volunteers from the earlier struggles is why she is optimistic. The campaign has raised \$1.3 million so far and will soon begin broadcasting commercials. But the key is one-on-one conversations with voters about what the constitutional amendment means, she said.

Kentucky falls between the two extremes in terms of its resources and organization. It is facing the first statewide campaign on a gay issue. Sarah Reece, the No on the Amendment campaign manager, said the language "forever bans access to legal recognition to all unmarried partners, both straight and gay."

"When folks find out how far reaching part two of this amendment is, they are planning to overwhelmingly stand with us and vote no in November." The trick is to reach enough voters to explain this. The emphasis is on walking door to door in eight communities, Reece said.

Earlier campaigns to try to block antigay marriage efforts in Hawaii and California often avoided even using the words "gay" or "marriage," choosing instead to talk about fairness. Today's strategies need to be different, LGBT advocates said.

"That is not persuasive to voters," Fleischer said. "Our fear in dealing with the issue in a direct way was obvious." It wasn't responsive and "we were not even engaging in a conversation with voters."

Foreman said that earlier messages were developed from the summation of a long process with focus groups. "But we really haven't had the resources to go through the different levels" of grappling with the complex of issues surrounding gay marriage with the larger public.

The Oregon campaign is taking at least a half step away from this toward greater honesty with voters, and an even larger step with greater financial resources. "One of the components is asking people to take a look at marriage and appreciate that it is not as simple as people think. Not allowing people to marry causes real harm to real families," Fleischer explained.

He said that Michigan offers potentially fertile political ground to defeat an amendment in that state, but the sheer size of the state means that it would require three times the financial and volunteer resources as Oregon. That practical concern makes it a lower priority for national resources.

Utah offers another surprising ray of hope. The three candidates for state attorney general have come out against the amendment because of flaws in the language that make it overly broad. And the Mormon Church, a dominant force in the state, has so far kept quiet on the issue. Local organizing is proceeding.

Foreman urged the community to "define our own victories and not have victory defined solely at the ballot box." That means using the state campaigns to better organize the community, build alliances, and educate the broader public. "That is victory, and we should not minimize those victories." ▼



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## Republican

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level. To their surprise, they discovered that not only are Republicans like President Bush, Senators John McCain (Arizona) and Arlen Specter (Pennsylvania) benefiting from the businessmen's largesse, but conservatives and politicians with dismal gay rights records are also pocketing large amounts of money for their campaigns.

Most notable are Rick Santorum, the Pennsylvania senator who equated homosexuality to bestiality; Bill Frist of Tennessee, the Senate majority leader who called gays criminals and supports the Federal Marriage Amendment; and Pete Coors, the Senate candidate from Colorado who also voiced support for the FMA and is heir to the Coors Brewing Company, long the focus of a boycott by the LGBT community.

Other pols receiving support from the business tycoons have included Rick Lazio, a New York Republican who cowed to conservative pressure and dropped out of the New York Pride Parade when he ran and lost against Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2000; Montana Democratic Sena-

tor Max Baucus who gay baited his Republican opponent Mike Taylor in 2002 and voted for the Defense of Marriage Act; and Matt Pong, who's race to unseat Barbara Boxer hit the skids after it was revealed he had given \$50,000 to the antigay Traditional Values Coalition and then signed a pledge to support a host of gay issues in an attempt to salvage his campaign.

McGoldrick's campaign then gave its findings to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, which first reported on the list last Wednesday, September 15 and posted it on its Web site Thursday, September 16. According to the list, Schwab has given \$50,000 to SFSOS and \$1.3 million to Republicans, while Fisher gave \$25,000 to SFSOS and \$377,650 to Republicans.

"When we looked into who funded it [SFSOS], I was surprised to find the vast majority of their money comes from Republicans. I was even more surprised to find these San Francisco Republicans are donating vast amounts of money to the most right-wing, extremist candidates in the country," Jim Stearns, a consultant for McGoldrick's campaign, told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. "In my mind you have this image that San

Francisco Republicans are moderate Republicans. But they are supporting people like John Ashcroft, who can put together an amendment to ban all abortions even in the case of rape and incest, and Rick Santorum, an incredibly antigay bigot, even George Bush himself."

Stearns said the campaign wanted to educate not just District 1 voters about who is behind hit pieces against McGoldrick but San Franciscans in general about SFSOS.

"The issue is much bigger than who is going to be supervisor in District 1 but whether downtown lobbyist groups can masquerade as neighborhood groups or are unmasked for who they really are," said Stearns.

Howard Wallace, a longtime gay labor activist and current vice president of the San Francisco Labor Council, on which he represents Pride at Work, a national LGBT labor group, said he is not surprised to hear about which candidates Schwab and Fisher support.

"We have people in this city who are some of the worst corporate tyrants on the planet. This is Wall Street West. We have some of the biggest corporations on the planet and some of the most influential," said Wallace, who does not shop at the Gap because of Fisher's political leanings and Global Exchange's former call for a boycott of the company over its past use of sweatshop workers. "I don't buy clothes at the Gap; I haven't for years because of their past practices. I know plenty of lesbian and gay people who do not shop at the Gap."

A backer and early organizer of the Coors boycott, Wallace said the LGBT community may also want to examine its support of Gap, Schwab, or other companies whose founders and executives are funneling money to politicians who want to restrict gay rights.

"If they can be effective, yeah" Wallace said when asked if he would support a boycott. "You have to focus on some of the worst of them. People aren't going to give up being consumers. But selectively, in certain outrageous cases," a boycott is called for.

District 8 Supervisor Bevan

Duffy said he was surprised to hear about the businessmen's political contributions to conservatives. While he knew the two men were Republicans, he said, "I was not aware that they were supporting fundamentalist candidates or hard-core candidates."

While Duffy does not recall being supported by either man in his campaign, he said he parted ways with Fisher this year over his support of legislation restricting chain stores. He declined to discuss if he shops at the Gap but Duffy did say he is careful where and how he spends his money.

"I try to have a complete sense of the places I spend my money and make my judgments based on what I am comfortable supporting," he said. "I don't want to comment on if I shop at Gap stores. I think people respect my personal decisions, but I do think about it very carefully."

For gay consumers, boycotting the Gap may not be as easy to support as Coors, a company whose profits help fund several right-wing, antigay think tanks. The Gap is well known for its gay supportive policies and workplace—the company offers domestic partner benefits and employs LGBT people at all levels. It is also a major contributor to numerous AIDS agencies and gay groups, from Project Open Hand, Shanti, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to Equality California and the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

Neither Schwab nor Fisher could be reached for comment. The picture of the political contributions by the two men is not as clear-cut as the list from McGoldrick's campaign. A review of federal political donations data by the B.A.R. found that Schwab in 1997 gave \$5,000 to the Democratic National Committee and \$1,000 to support Democratic South Dakota Senator Tom Daschle. Fisher last year gave \$4,000 to Democratic House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as well as \$5,000 to California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Yet in the last several years, far more money from both men has gone to helping the Republicans win majorities in both houses of Congress. Fisher gave the National Republican Congressional Committee \$10,000 the last two years while Schwab gave \$25,000

this year to the National Republican Senatorial Committee and \$9,000 since 2003 to the Americans for a Republican Majority PAC.

The contributions from the company founders paint a picture polar opposite of the gay-friendly perceptions of the companies they run.

"There is this dichotomy. Schwab and Gap are companies known to be very supportive of their LGBT employees. The Gap is very committed to the AIDS Walk," said Duffy. "Schwab was a supporter of Frameline until it got hit by a right-wing blitz campaign eight or nine years ago."

Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, said the Gap has been a major sponsor of its annual dinners for the last two years.

"I think the company giving DP benefits is important and a real good thing. There is always concern when money from the company is going to candidates who want to write discrimination against us into the Constitution," he said.

But he cautioned that boycotts of companies can swing both ways, pointing to conservatives who are calling on a boycott of Proctor and Gamble for its decision to extend DP benefits to its LGBT employees.

"The question is at what point does this type of boycotting turn into so much is being boycotted that no one is paying attention to it?" asked Kors. "I think it is something the community as a whole needs to look at and think about. From a national perspective HRC [Human Rights Campaign] and the task force [National Gay and Lesbian Task Force] should be the ones who are providing guidance."

Other SFSOS contributors with ties to the Republican Party include Intel cofounder Arthur Rock, who gave \$37,200 to the GOP; F. Warren Hellman, chairman and cofounder of the private equity investment firm Hellman & Friedman, who gave \$17,750 to the GOP; Bratton Wilbur, chairman of the Wilbur-Ellis Company, who gave \$65,500; and William J. Hume, on the board of overseers for the conservative think tank the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University, who gave \$259,500 to GOP candidates. ▼

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## Masseurs

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exactly it fits into the structure of the new ordinance but I think everybody is committed to making it work."

Under the new rules, which go into effect October 1, all massage therapists must be permitted by the health department to practice massage. Masseurs can either transfer their old permits with the police over to the health department or sign up under the new system.

Practitioners can apply for either a general or an advanced permit and must pass a proficiency test. Some may also need to obtain licenses to do out-call massage services, operate a massage establishment, or for solo massage. Failure to be properly permitted could result in fines ranging from \$250 to upwards of \$5,000 for multiple violations. The health department has set up a Web site at [www.dph.sf.ca.us/eh/hn/index\\_message.htm](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/eh/hn/index_message.htm) to explain the process and requirements. Anyone with questions should call (415) 252-3800. ▼

## News in brief

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Duffy, and representatives of Transgender Equality California.

Suggested donation is \$25 per person, and donations and pledges are tax deductible. For more information, visit [www.sfteam.org](http://www.sfteam.org).

### District 5 forum

The Human Services Network, Council of Community Housing Organizations, Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, and the Institute on

Aging will sponsor a District 5 supervisor candidate's forum Wednesday, September 29. The event, hosted by the Leo McCarthy Center for Public Service, takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at University of San Francisco's McLaren Center, 2130 Fulton Street, in San Francisco.

HSN is an association of more than 100 community-based nonprofit agencies that work on issues affecting vulnerable San Franciscans.

For more information on the forum, call (415) 668-0444 or e-mail [qmecke@sfsn.org](mailto:qmecke@sfsn.org). ▼



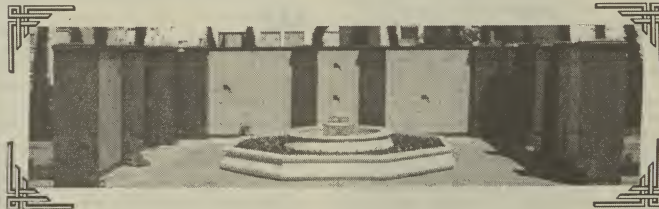


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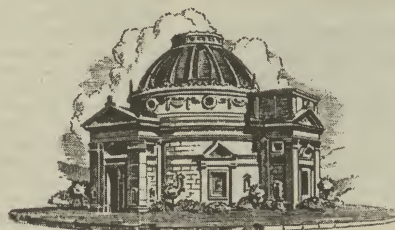


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# AOF to announce grantees at reception

by Kevin Davis

Participants at San Francisco's Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center will receive needed funds for their AIDS education and outreach efforts thanks to fans of Hollywood and cocktail parties. On September 30 the Academy of Friends names LYRIC and 13 other service organizations as beneficiaries of its upcoming 25th annual Oscar night fundraising gala.

Next week's affair at the Metreon's fourth floor terrace also serves as a promotional event aimed at attracting more individual underwriters willing to pledge AOF's minimum membership of \$300 per year.

Although best known for its opulent \$200 per ticket Oscar night party, (but free to AOF members), AOF holds events year-round hosted and underwritten by sponsors such as Williams Sonoma.

"We seek out new and different venues, caterers, and wineries to

put them on," said board member Eric Vanderpool, the corporate sponsorship chair, citing as examples movie previews at Pixar, the annual Christmas party at the W Hotel, and events at Brooks Brothers and the Clift Hotel.

Corporate underwriters include Wells Fargo, San Francisco magazine, Nordstrom, and MAC Cosmetics, with Levi Strauss, AT&T and Mercedes Benz each donating over \$50,000.

"AT&T relies on us to do their legwork [in researching HIV services worthy of donations]," said Vanderpool. "We're their right hand. It's a special relationship."

Mercedes also donates a car raffled at a special reception for its 300 individual underwriters before Oscar night. Last year's raffle raised \$125,000 at \$50 per ticket.

"There are companies looking for ways to give back to the community," said T.J. Snyder, one of 29 AOF board members. "It gives them an opportunity to be showcased."

The nonprofits each make grant requests but the amount they receive depends on the success of the February event.

"We're expecting to do very well," said AIDS Emergency Fund Executive Director Mike Smith, whose organization requested \$40,000 this year. "It's a successful event."

AOF's Oscar night party benefits community services in two categories: direct care grants for

items such as food, housing, counseling, financial assistance, and legal services; and HIV prevention education grants that cover things like peer outreach work and employment training.

The Marin AIDS Project also requested \$40,000. MAP staff members will volunteer at the February 27, 2005 gala as part of their commitment. "It's a team effort," said MAP's director Jennifer Malone.

AOF was founded in 1980 by Kile Ozier as a small, private Oscar night party. Over the years, the party attracted ticket buyers, corporate donors, and underwriters to raise funds for HIV/AIDS services. It has grown into the largest Oscar night celebration outside Los Angeles and distributed over \$4 million in the past two decades. "A huge part of revenue making is done through personal underwriting founded on friends asking friends to support the cause," said Jeff VanLeuven, the AOF gala's chair.

"Generally for these events you're suggested to volunteer, sell tickets, and get sponsorships," said Jessica Berman, development manager for Shanti, which also benefits from the Macy's Passport fashion show and will attend both the AOF beneficiary naming this week and the Oscar night affair next year. "We're thrilled about it," she said.

"We work in collaboration with the beneficiaries throughout

the season," said AOF Executive Director Elizabeth Loeffler. "They help us bring in volunteers and sell tickets."

"We're stakeholders in the success of the event itself," said Joy Iwasa, special events director for Project Open Hand, which has received a total of \$200,000 from AOF.

"We hope to get attendees to be underwriters, to have a good time a nice social aspect to it, but also provide constituents with the current state of affairs, why we're there," said Vanderpool of next week's reception. "It's near and dear to my heart."

Each AOF board member serves as a liaison to an agency. Vanderpool is the liaison for the East Bay's Pittsburgh Community Council, which provides rapid HIV testing of farm workers, pre- and post-counseling, and case management referral services.

"Each agency has its own unique story," said Vanderpool. "It's really tough to choose where the greatest need is. We want to make sure the funds are given effectively." ▼

**The September 30 reception starts at 6 p.m. at Metreon, 101 4th Street, in San Francisco. For more information, call AOF at (415) 995-9890 or visit [www.academyoffriends.org](http://www.academyoffriends.org).**

## David McTarnahan



McTarnahan, David, 49. Born on January 10, 1955; died after a sudden bout of encephalitis on August 11, 2004. He had lived much of his life in San Francisco, California, and loved that city. David was preceded in death by his mother, Mary Ann Mahoney, and by his brother, William McTarnahan. He is survived by his father, Fritz McTarnahan; his stepmother, Joan McTarnahan; his brother, John McTarnahan; and his family of Copperton, Texas; his brother, Linc McTarnahan; and his family of Conroe, Texas. Diane Wilsey, Margaret Knight and Helen Gregory were special, wonderful friends to David all his life. He touched the lives of many more people in San Francisco and he will be missed by all. There will be no services.

was a long-time volunteer on restoration activities of that organization. He was also a great storyteller, a kind soul, and a gay man unafraid to live his life as he wished, even when that was difficult to do.

Less than a week before his death, Jack stood proudly aboard MUNI 162 as it made its way under assisted tow from Market Street Railway's yard to MUNI's Geneva Shops for the next steps in its restoration. Jack was the MSR Project Manager for that 1914 car's preparation for a return to service. Though he was encyclopedic in his knowledge of San Francisco history, he was really more interested in what was ahead. Thanks to Jack, there will be more vintage streetcars ahead for the F-Line, along with fond memories held by all who knew him.

Jack leaves no family, but many, many friends. Market Street Railway will post information about a memorial service for Jack at [www.streetcar.org](http://www.streetcar.org) as soon as plans are finalized.

## OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

## Jack P. Smith

June 16, 1932 – September 18, 2004



Jack Smith, retired MUNI Streetcar Motorman extraordinaire, Market Street Railway Director Emeritus, and dedicated restoration volunteer, died suddenly at his San Francisco home Saturday, September 18, 2004, of an apparent heart attack. He was 72.

Jack Smith was the son of one of MUNI's first African-American operators, and a legend in his own right for his expert handling of rail equipment. After his retirement, he served on Market Street Railway's Board of Directors with distinction for several years, and

## AEF

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and its guidelines are used by other AIDS service organizations.

"Since Ryan White funds are a big chunk of our income it makes sense to use it as a guideline," said Smith.

It sounds like a big drop from \$1,965 to \$1,165. But, because 85 percent of AEF's clients survive on \$800 to \$900 per month, only about 10 percent of clients will be affected – those making over about \$1,200 per month – accounting for a few hundred of the 2,500 clients AEF serves each year.

Observing clients' average income, some have literally no income when they first approach AEF, trapped between benefits or having just stopped working with no income yet. Another big group of clients, those receiving general assistance, earn \$500 per month.

Because AEF uses a monthly standard income threshold, when a client's income falls below \$1,165 AEF can help, giving flexibility to help people recently out of work remain eligible during emergency stretches.

## The cap

The newly instituted \$5,000 lifetime cap won't take effect immediately, Smith said. It follows years of declining federal funds and will encourage clients to better manage their resources and use AEF solely as an agency of last resort, Smith said. Because the average award size is \$500 per year, a client could conceivably apply for aid for 10 consecutive years.

Those who have already received \$4,500 or more can receive one more grant of \$500 to use now or set aside and bank for a possibly more severe crisis in the future, Smith explained.

"No one expected we'd deal with an epidemic of this magnitude 20 years later, or be helping a client for seven years," said Dan Bernal, board vice president.

Four years ago the government gave the city \$40 million in Ryan White money per year. That has decreased by at least \$1 million per year every year. Last year it decreased by \$4 million. Right now federal money coming into the city is about \$29 million per year.

"Let's put it this way, during the entire Bush administration the Ryan White CARE Act has been flat-funded every year with exactly the same amount of money," said Smith.

Smith said he is surprised by this year's client increase from 300 to 500 people despite the anti-retrovirals helping people generally live longer, healthier lives. But after pulling files and viewing the epidemic's demographic changes, he thinks clients are developing reactions to the drugs as their health declines.

"I think we've had a good half a decade of relatively good drug interventions and I think we're beginning to see people worn down by drug therapies, developing problems with taking the drugs," said Smith. "We're all waiting for the next round of 'miracle' drugs."

"The nature of the agency is that we're emergency assistance," said Smith. "We can't be monthly assistance. Our niche is a stopgap, short term help for people in crisis."

## New initiative

In conjunction with the changes to income threshold and lifetime cap, AEF's strategic planning initiative will make it a more effective, efficient, and flexible organization.

"We're going to be working on, in the next several months, changes to client intake – more of a needs assessment," said Smith. "We'd like to be able to be in a situation, that if a person is in a dire situation, we can give more than \$500. But, if the person comes in just because it's their anniversary date and needed a little bit of help, they would not be eligible for the full \$500. So we're trying to create a system that responds better to

the type of emergencies, the urgency, and the size of emergency rather than have a sort of cookie cutter approach, where you get your \$500 if you have the four criteria."

"It's going to add a level of flexibility to the process, and make us more effective in giving the resources to the people who need them the most," said Smith.

After completing the strategic planning process AEF will expand its client intake questionnaire beyond eligibility requirements to confirm a client's dire need.

"It takes up broader brain cells to stop working with clients and fundraising, to get out of the day-to-day and look at trends, take time to assess the external environment, really look at – internally – what's good here and what's not," said Smith.

Last year \$635,000 of AEF's \$1.4 to \$1.8 million budget came from Ryan White funds and about \$1 million was raised from the community.

AEF is the most grassroots of San Francisco AIDS service organizations, with raffles, walk-a-thons, and numerous benefit events. Additionally, AEF owns the Bare Chest Calendar, which generates thousands of dollars in sales. The first calendar men dinner-date auctions and this year's Leather Walk raised \$20,000 each last weekend. Fundraising events at the Folsom Street Fair this Sunday will raise another \$3,000.

Other in-house fundraisers include the springtime volunteer appreciation awards dinner, direct mail solicitation, its annual "Dinner Around the Castro, Mission and SOMA" when restaurants donate 25 percent of their proceeds, and Donna Sachet's "Songs of the Season" benefit. Its biggest fundraiser – the penny jars – bring in about \$100,000 annually.

AEF has worked with 35,000 clients – mostly gay men in their 40s, about half white, half people of color – and given away \$20 million in its 22-year history. ▼

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# Making gay sports events happen

by Jim Provenzano

It's easy to take the behind-the-scenes organization of GLBT sports events for granted. But most tournaments are planned more than a year in advance, and the people who plan them often work unacknowledged.

Teams find that Web sites, message boards, and e-mail lists all play a part in keeping athletes up to date on event schedules, fees, and even gossip.

Events with hundreds of participants, like the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics annual meet, maintain expansive tournament schedules. IGLA is also sanctioned under U.S. Masters Swimming, which posts extensive online results of all its aquatics events.

## Serving class

Tennis also draws hundreds of athletes to annual tournaments. Kevin Ware wasn't sure what he was in for when he took on the job of chairing this year's annual tournament of the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation, held in June in San Francisco. A former modern dancer turned tennis player, Ware is also a Web designer. Renovating the GLTF's membership database and Web site led to his also updating registration, competition seeding, online membership payments, and building a searchable database. "We made a concerted effort to get more members, and we accomplished our goal," Ware said.

Ware also recruited help in arranging the tennis group's closing banquet at the fancy San Francisco Fairmont Hotel. Viewing the impressive sunset view from the hotel's top floor ballroom, tennis players socialized while perusing donated wines and artwork (as well as a few campy Barbie dolls).

After dessert was served, Ware, dressed in a stylish suit and tie, doled out silent auction and raffle prizes. Among the items were tennis racquets, massage certificates, and even adult gay DVDs, acquired by a tennis-playing employee of Falcon Video.

There is a less glamorous side to running such a tournament. After the party, Ware headed off to a local supermarket. After putting

his jacket and tie in his car, he had to buy muffins and fruit for the hundreds of hungry tennis players at the next morning's finals.

## Net results

For a huge quadrennial event like the Gay Games (to be held in Chicago July 15 to 22, 2006), online registration is the first step toward getting athletes to attend. That process was created mostly by volunteers.

Gay Games VII registration opened in July 2004, the earliest

ever preceding a Gay Games. During

the design phase, aside from a contracted software firm, two dozen Federation of Gay Games representatives from seven countries voluntarily assisted Chicago Games Inc. project leaders in data collecting and database design. By building from the

Sydney Games' participant database, outreach was made simpler.

CGI representatives said that more than half of their first few hundred registrants attended Gay Games VI in Sydney. Yet most aspects of data collecting were completely renovated since 2002.

FGG Co-President Roberto Mantaci said the registration consultation process was "a perfect example" of the new partnership between the FGG and CGI. "Both groups wanted to launch registration on June 1," Mantaci said. "Nonetheless, CGI and the FGG mutually agreed to withhold the opening of registration for additional Web site testing and improvements."

That enabled Chicago to make changes that may not be visible to the person registering, but which represent a significant advance from previous registration procedures. Chicago's new system helps participants choose skill levels and locales, and helps place athletes without a team affiliation into sports months beforehand.

Just this week, online global media company PlanetOut Inc. announced that it has become a premium sponsor of Gay Games VII. The agreement, valued at just over \$1 million, according to a PlanetOut statement, is the largest corporate sponsorship ever for an international LGBT sporting



Try, athlete: Participants in Provincetown's Swim for Life.

event. It doubles the size of its sponsorship with Gay Games VI in Sydney, Australia in 2002.

"The new relationship with PlanetOut means that Gay Games VII will be able to expand its worldwide reach exponentially," said Kevin Boyer, Gay Games VII co-vice chair and head of the marketing committee. "The partnership is expected to add millions of advertising impressions, in six languages and on four continents, to our overall marketing campaign."

## Small but strong

Smaller events rely more on the tenacity of their creators. Jay Critchley produced the first Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life and Paddler Flotilla in 1987. Now in its 17th year, this year's Swim for Life, held September 11, in Provincetown, Massachusetts, attracted more than 300 swimmers and kayak paddlers, and 150 volunteers. Last year's swim raised over \$134,000 for local AIDS and women's health organizations.

Swim for Life's first go wasn't easy. Reports of polluted harbor water made the headlines that year. "A lot of people said, 'You'll never make it; it's dangerous,'" said Critchley, who envisioned the event as a way to also remember those lost to AIDS. Somehow, he convinced 16 swimmers to brave the waters of Cape Cod's Long Point.

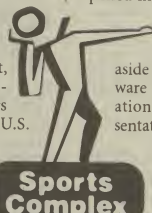
Holding the event after Labor Day weekend furthers interest beyond the summer holidays, but it's also the only time most locals are available. "A lot of people have a strong attachment to the community," said Critchley. "But people come from all over the Northeast

to participate."

Food, logistics, and medical crews are recruited locally. With cheerleaders, a stock of wetsuits, and almost 40 borrowed boats, the swimming event is bracketed with an outdoor concert the night before and a "Mermaid Brunch" afterward.

Critchley said keeping Swim for Life on a small scale retains its community style. "We don't have pre-registration, and we don't have high minimum pledges," he said. All participants raise a minimum of \$100, but most raise more. Critchley said that about a third of the swimmers are in training, but many use it to overcome personal anxieties about open-water swimming. "For most, it's a personal challenge," he said. "They get a lot out of it. That's the real key." ▼

Jim Provenzano is the author of the novels *PINS* and *Monkey Suits*. Read more sports columns at [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org). Send your GLBT sports event info to: [jimproven@yahoo.com](mailto:jimproven@yahoo.com). For more info, visit: [www.gltf.org](http://www.gltf.org), [www.swim4life.org](http://www.swim4life.org), [www.gaygames.com](http://www.gaygames.com), and [www.gaygameschicago.org](http://www.gaygameschicago.org).



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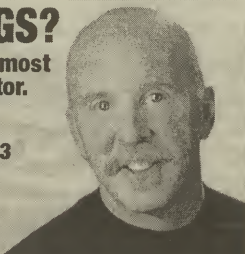
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## Studds

◀ page 16

thoughts of his re-election. The best thing to be said about him is he is irrelevant in terms of history. He is just not relevant. History is moving forward and he is not with it," he said. "He will be lucky to have a historical footnote."

As for John Kerry's presidential campaign, Studds said he is in a "prayerful mode" that the senator from Massachusetts will turn his campaign around.

"Of course he has a chance. We are just praying that if issues have anything to do with this campaign then he will win in a landslide," said Studds.

## Life today

Today, Studds is a consultant and on the boards of the Boston Harbor Island National Park and a private nonprofit component of the park called the Island Alliance, which raises money for it. The park was his last accomplishment before leaving Congress.

With the help of his colleague

and friend, Alaskan Republican Don Young, Congress passed legislation creating the park right before Studds left office. Over the years, Studds and Hara had become close with Young and his wife, staying with them in Alaska.

"We were buddies for 24 years. We both liked the Coast Guard and commercial fisheries. Don said we will get it done and it was done the last week of the last Congress I was in," said Studds.

As he looks back over six decades of accomplishments and achievements, Studds is overcome by a sense of awe and amazement at how far the country's attitude has changed toward gays and lesbians.

"If you had told me 30 years ago there would be such a thing [as gay marriage] or I would be a happily married man, I would think you were on some nefarious substance. It would have been beyond comprehension," he said. "I was 40 years old before I met, to my knowledge, a gay person. Try to tell that to someone in their 20s today."

In his 20s, Studds said being

openly gay was not an option.

"If anyone discovered what I was, my life was over. You couldn't survive doing anything acceptable. It would be a living death," he said. "Now look what's happened. It is just so unbelievable the distance we have come."

Doughty said it is time Studds be recognized for his contributions to moving the nation forward on gay rights.

"Gerry was, in every sense of the word, a pioneer. The significance of having an openly gay member of Congress not only acknowledge who he is and go one to win a number of times broke down glass ceiling and set an example of what is possible," he said.

"In my opinion, absolutely, he was a trailblazer," added Hormel. ▼

The 2004 Cornerstone Awards take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 29 at the Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery Street in San Francisco. For more information, call (415) 355-9988.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

#### WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Let WIC help you! WIC, the Women, Infants, and Children program, is a nutrition program that helps pregnant women, new mothers and young children eat well and stay healthy. If you are pregnant, breastfeeding or postpartum and have an infant or child under 5 years of age, and meet federal income guidelines, you may be eligible to receive free WIC benefits. These benefits include nutrition education, breastfeeding support and education, supplemental foods and referrals to health care and community services. Women who are breastfeeding can get advice from a breastfeeding specialist or receive a breast pump to loan for special conditions. You can receive special checks for nutritious foods such as milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans and infant formula. WIC staff are also able to assist you in finding resources in the community to meet your individual needs. WIC staff speak English, Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR OUTPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BENEFITS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is the intention of the San Francisco Police Department to contract with a qualified company to provide Outpatient Behavioral Health Benefits, (Mental Health Services) for its approximately 2300 members.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference on 09-28-04 at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, San Francisco, California, in Room # 505 at 11:00 AM.

The proposals will be due on 10-18-04.

For a copy of the Request for Proposal, contact Officer Shawn Wallace at 415-553-1096.

#### THE SAN FRANCISCO CITY CLINIC

The San Francisco City Clinic is the City's only municipal STD Clinic. City Clinic provides free or low cost, confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services to anyone 12 years of age or older. The Clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison Streets and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.; and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The telephone number is (415) 487-5500.

STD services are provided for all sexually transmitted diseases, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, crabs, scabies, herpes, genital warts, bacterial vaginosis, trichomoniasis, hepatitis, urethritis, cervicitis, proctitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, genital ulcer disease, epididymitis and urinary tract infections. Specialized women's services, including birth control, pap smears, colposcopy and the morning after pill are also available. City Clinic clients may also receive hepatitis A&B vaccination, HIV post-exposure prevention and HIV counseling, testing, referral and partner notification services. Medical and case management services are also provided on a limited basis for underserved patients who have no other source of care.

All sexually active persons should be tested for STDs regularly. If you think you may have been exposed to an STD, you need to be promptly tested and treated to prevent you from developing the disease.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

The Department of the Environment's mission is to improve, enhance and preserve the environment and promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability.

The Department of the Environment seeks volunteers and interns for helping in the office and in the field (415) 554-6390.

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278724-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Innovative Process Technology Group, 738 Clipper St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ralf Oelschlaeger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-24-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08-24-04.

SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278761-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Suto Information Technology, 1515 Willard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Glen Gertelman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08-25-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8-25-04.

SEPT. 2, 9, 16, 23 2004

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Gujral Ashok Kumar. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 53 West Portal Ave. San Francisco, Ca 94127. Type of License applied for:

41 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE  
EATING PLACE

SEPTEMBER 9, 16, 23 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Contract Interiors, 1755 Filbert St. #2D San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Patricia Ditzel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-01-79. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278933-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Landmark Construction & Development, Inc., 71 Britton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134-2732. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed May M. Poon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278804-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Subway Sandwich, 30 Second St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Ruben Kazarian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ginger Barn, 584 Castro St. #884 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-2594. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael S. Davison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278832-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sea Bee Liquor 3000 Taraval St. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gina Ma. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-27-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-01-04.

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0279064-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Gaistronik 38 Mason St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Mike Majerus. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0279073-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CHL Hardwood Floor 70 Winding Way San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lou CHL-Hang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-19-00. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0279077-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Angela's Cleaning Service 419 Holway Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife, signed William Cornejo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-08-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0279065-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: NCT Food & Entertainment 208 Pennsylvania St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Samaria A. Peralta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541542

In the matter of the application of Catherine Emi Izufo for change of name. The application of Catherine Emi Izufo for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Catherine Emi Izufo has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jadeluote Lotos. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541535

In the matter of the application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name. The application of Saul Juan Antonio Leyva for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Saul Juan Antonio Leyva has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rafael Leyva-Lara. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0278806-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Eye Curamba Optometry Four Embarcadero Center, Lobby Level San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Paul G. Irving. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 8-19-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-20-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

#### STATEMENT FILE A-0279380-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Four Wet Feet, For Wet Feet, 4 Wet Feet, 4247 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert S. Fullmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-20-04.

SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

## LEGAL NOTICES

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541516

In the matter of the application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name. The application of Erin Nicole Cooper for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Erin Nicole Cooper has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Erin Iris Nicole Fae. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0279066-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Enhanced Sales Potential 4406 18th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Musser. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7-26-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-07-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0279243-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Excellent Automotive Service and Repair 740 Valencia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Ronald J. Mallia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-14-04.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

### STATEMENT FILE A-0279286-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dynamic Innovations 35 Guttenberg St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Keilana Andaya. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-15-04.

SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541536

In the matter of the application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi for change of name. The application of Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Elizabeth Jaleh Yaghoobi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Anne Yaghoobi. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of October, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541550

In the matter of the application of Steve Susoeff for change of name. The application of Steve Susoeff for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Steve Susoeff has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Steve Susoyev. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 16, 23, 30 OCT. 7 2004

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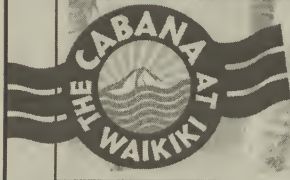


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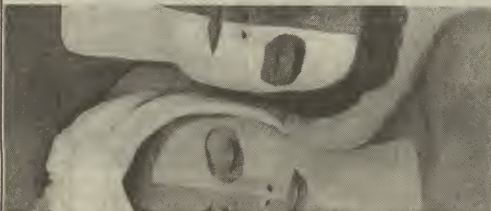
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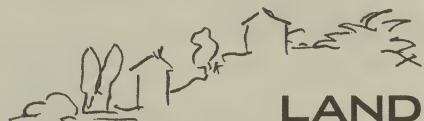
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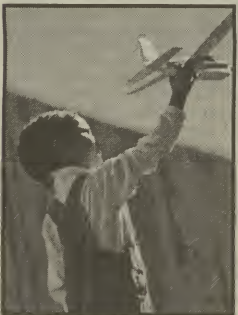
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Every year hundreds of thousands gather in San Francisco for the world's largest leather celebration - Leather Pride Week and the Folsom Street Fair.

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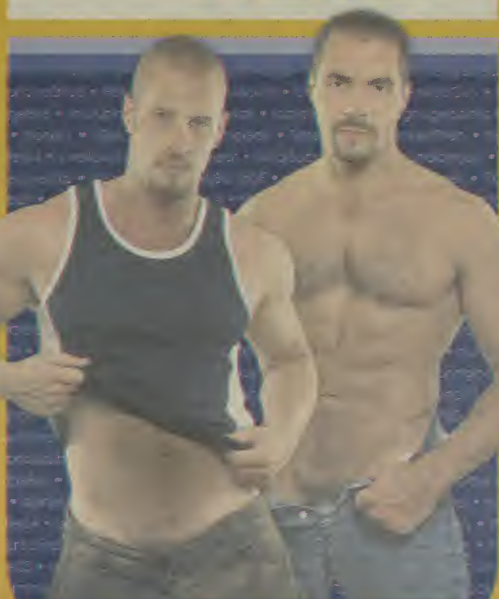
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John Duigan's film 'Head in the Clouds.'  
pages 37, 39

**That's show biz!**  
Chris Isaak on acting in  
the new John Waters film.  
page 46



**The Duke redux**  
Duke Ellington's 'Beggar's  
Holiday' is newly staged.  
page 36



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 39 • 23 September 2004



Taq Adams, Alex Chalk and Troy Plunk are among the attractions of the two-disc director's cult *Screw*.

## Hypermasculine sexploits

**Hot House re-invents the leather film**

by John F. Karr

**H**ey, I'm as much for hypermasculinity as the next guy. That's why all those over-the-top adventures in leather sex that were the last word in porn a couple years ago had me completely Linked and Dangled, as well as Re-Looped, Up-Loaded, and Positively Concatenated. I tell you, Child, my angel be fallen.

Or it was until Hot House Entertainment re-invented the leather film, discarding epic scope and cast of thousands for a more realistic and immediate effect. Sometimes, as in the cock-stiffening succession of scenes in the two-part *Screw*, they've even left out the leather. *Screw* has hard muscle everywhere, on rough-playing men who soar toward absolution on Tom of Finland wings. There are tattoos on most anything that can be upholstered, lots of cockrings, and several butts full of dildos. But little actual leather. Just goes to show ya that leather sex can be a state of mind.

Although the last Hot House titles, *Skuff II* and *Mo' Bubble Butt*, saw their kinky sex and edgy role-playing swathed in leather, company founder and chief director Steven Scarborough won't hang his movies on that single fashion peg. "It's the kind of guys and the look of the movies that have made us such a hit at IML," he said. "We've been very welcomed into the leather community. But we've never set out to say we're this or that. I think what we do is make gay movies. Movies with men, manly men. We're piggy," he concluded, "with style."

Piggy comes in three varieties, from subdivisions of the company each with its own specialty. The premier line is Hot House, and all its movies are made by Scarborough. "My movies try to be a little aggressive," he told me, "at least have a moment or two where people go, 'Oh, I don't believe they did that.'" As for that chicken/egg question of porn instructing viewers, Scarborough said, "Listen. I'm in the fantasy business. Remember, it's theatre. Still, although we're not teachers, we do influence people in their sexual taste. These movies can have an impact. So I like to be over the top, yet within the realm of obtainable fantasy."

### Force field

It's a mere technicality of costume that *Screw* isn't a leather movie, because it has the kind of assertive, forceful sex I presume (or fantasize) a leatherman has. It's the attitude, baby.  
page 42 ►

## Dirtying up the Waters

**Bizarre sex fetishes in 'A Dirty Shame'**

by Scott Baum

**I** had a concussion once, and nothing happened," John Waters admits, sounding almost disappointed. In his new movie *A Dirty Shame*, Baltimore's beloved son would not have been so lucky with a knock on the head.

Waters' latest movie is a ballsy comedy about head-injury sufferers who, "after their concussion, experience a carnal lust they cannot control," says the writer and director. The band of sex addicts take over a solidly blue-collar neighborhood on Harford Road in Baltimore, and try to discover a new sex act.

But to find a new way to get off, Waters catalogs a litany of practices that have been around for a long

time. It's not exactly a page from *Masters and Johnson*. With terms like "yodeling in the canyon" and "payday," it's more of an advanced sex-ed class.

In Waters' world, even the flora and fauna are in sexual overdrive. "If you look at all trees, they are all filthy," he says. "Every tree has orifices. Go out and take a walk and think dirty about trees, and you will be rewarded."

But if Waters was hit in the head in his own movie, following the "logic" of the story, he says he'd probably become the opposite of what he was before the accident.

"Maybe I'd turn straight," he jokes. "That would horrify my world the most."

*A Dirty Shame* stars Tracey Ullman, Chris Isaak,  
page 40 ►



Filmmaker John Waters: Turning straight would 'horrify my world.'



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# Welcome, leather herds!

## Scintillation on world-famous Folsom

by Roberto Friedman

Only last week, your intrepid Bay Area reporter was sitting in a gay bar in Osaka, Japan, trying in vain to learn Japanese by osmosis while staying clear of flying darts, when images appeared on the overhead video which startled us and made us put down our gin-tonic. There, in the land of the samurai and the chrysanthemum blossom, the screen had suddenly come alive with fleshy footage from San Francisco's very own **Folsom Street Fair!**

This made us really disoriented, as we remarked to our press escort, "Look, you can just about glimpse our office in that shot!" But the effect of seeing familiar scenes of Western men stuffed into leather harnesses, brandishing whips and beer cups, was also oddly comforting, like slipping into a well-worn pair of boots or cockring.

We'll blather on about our big gay experiences in Japan in a column coming soon, but for now there's enough native soil to deal with in our leather satchel. Know only, as you cavort and carry on in cowhide this weekend, that an audience half a world away is smiling at you, perhaps leering.

### Afternoon delight

Male nipple enthusiast **Curt Sanburn** sends word that the Powerhouse bar is planning a nippleplay party charmingly entitled *Nips in the Afternoon*, for Saturday afternoon (4-8 p.m., 9/25) before the Folsom Street Fair. Erotic star **Steve 'Titpig' Hurley** will host the protuberant gathering of "udderites" from around the world, and the party put on by Nippleplay.com and Treasure Island Media, producers of titplay-fetish video *Snake Bite*, which stars **Titpig** and **Daddy Chuck**. Treasure Island Media impresario **Paul Morris** will be scouting for some new "tit talent" to make another video. Places, gentlemen.

Sanburn assures us that nip-



Protuberant nipples will feature in *Nips in the Afternoon* at Powerhouse.

ples are getting really big. "Tit parties are popping up all over the globe." He expects the Folsom weekend bash to be well-peopled with the well-nippled, "the biggest gathering of big pecs and big nips in history." Even including the Trojan war?

### Fetish watch

Perry Ellis Award-winning designer **John Bartlett** is back in the fashion spotlight, admitting to *New York* magazine that the seersucker suits he's now showing in lieu of the **Tom of Finland** gear he's previously offered are really just "another kind of fetish," calling the men in Brooks Brothers suits who surrounded him at the Harvard Club "as erotic as a leather bar. But my September 2001 presentation was a prison scenario based on **Jean Genet**, so I do think this is a lighter take. No one's blindfolded this time."

Not blindfolded to the bounty of gay offerings at this year's Toronto Film Festival, the *NY Times*' **A.O. Scott** gave advance notice of eventual raves for sex-researcher biopic *Kinsey* and **Gregg Araki**-directed *Mysterious Skin*, based on the **Scott Heim** novel. Araki's film, "about child molestation, alien abduction and the thorny enigmas of adolescent male sexuality, is disturbing in the way the subject matter demands," wrote Scott. "It is also humane, sensitive and disarmingly funny, and features a remarkably poised performance by a young actor named **Joseph Gordon-Levitt**." So much for the embargo on advance reviews!

On the other hand, Scott declared he "could not stand to watch" **Asia Argento**'s much-hyped treatment of *The Heart Is Deceitful Above All Things*, from stories by **JT LeRoy**, also about all of the above, with the possible exception of alien abduction. Perhaps being the trendiest of trendoids is no longer enough?

### Letters from the editrix

Former *Playgirl* editor-in-chief **Ronnie Koenig** is the author/performer of a one-woman show, *Centerfold*. In her recent interview with blog phenom **Gawker**, she was challenged about a recent *AM* **Nightline** article in which she wrote that **Vincent Gallo**'s boner

scene in *Brown Bunny* was "a door that was previously shut, and it was a *schlong* time coming."

**Gawker** objected, "First, shouldn't that be 'cumming'? And second, do you really expect **Brad Pitt** to show his kibbles and bits just because Vincent did?"

Ever the edifying editrix, **Koenig** replied, "In answer to your first question, no! I never understood why people use that spelling. It reminds me of how a 13-year-old boy would write. Should 'orgasming' be 'orgasumming'? Second, I think that **Brad** will do full-frontal nudity, as long as the nudity is tasteful and essential to the script." **Gawker** and **gawked** surely must have shared a hearty laugh at that.

Apparently, **Koenig** has also made reference in print to rapidly aging **Kevin Costner**'s "toasted hamburger rolls." Hey, we think it's catchy. **Ronnie** is our kind of playgirl!

"You're right, in order to express my dirty thoughts, I've had to be creative with some of my terms. I look at it like a challenge. The toasted hamburger rolls line came about because I didn't want to repeat the word 'tush' too often. I've tried to come up with as many terms for penis as possible, my favorite being 'two turntables and a microphone,' though I doubt that's what **Beck** had in mind when he wrote his song."

Not to leave out the women-folk, **RH** had a few choice words on female genitalia. "Their 'wom-anhood,' 'honey pot' or 'love lily?' Ewww!"

### Latin lovers

Last weekend saw a flowering of love lilies of a different sort when **Queer Latina/o Artists' Coalition [QueLaCo]** sponsored a series of shows and events around the city, some ongoing. Saturday night at **USF's Presentation Theater**, *Cine Accion* screened new movies by local queer Latinos created around the theme of *Besos Peligrosos* (*Dangerous Kisses*). *Guapas*, *Guapas*, y *Besos Peligrosos*, curated by **Dolissa Medina**, brought together short movies by **Duda Leite**, **Harjant Gill** y **Jesse Cortez**, **Karla Rosales** y **Mary Guzman**, **Valentin Aguirre**, y otros.

Across town at the Mission  
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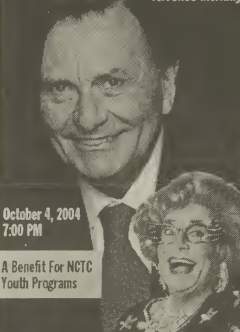
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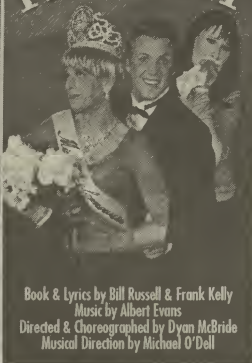


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## THEATRE

# Here she comes

## NCTC's 'Pageant' queenery

by Richard Dodds

On the same night that Miss Alabama was being crowned 2005's Miss America, the judges at the opening night of *Pageant* had a similar idea. It was Miss Deep South who got crowned.

The comparisons don't end there. "Curing cancer" is the goal of both the new Miss America and one of the six contestants in the fictional competition sponsored by Glamouresse beauty products. And while it's a joke when a former Miss Glamouresse hawks the sponsor's new perfume, the Miss America contest now has an official scent called Pageantry. It is described as "fresh, young, and beautifully alive."

No matter how hard the organizers of Miss America and other pageants try to find a comfortable toehold in the contemporary world, they remain institutions in which inadvertent self-parody is never far from the surface. The

creators of *Pageant* didn't have to dig very far for laughs. Basically, it's truth that has been given a tweak.

The biggest tweak, of course, is that the Miss Glamouresse contestants are all played by men. An off-Broadway hit of 1991, *Pageant* still provides 90 minutes of laugh-filled fun. At least it does in the happy production at New Conservatory Theatre Center.

In addition to the tweak, there is also a gimmick. Six audience members are provided with scoring cards, and the choice of who will be the next Miss Glamouresse (and who will be the sore losers) is up to them. It's a clever device that actually adds a hint of real competition for both the performers and the audience.

Director-choreographer Dyan McBride guides the production with a savvy assurance that usually finds the right levels of ridiculousness. The cast certainly looks like it has having fun, and that spirit is infectious. It includes Patrick Michael Dukeman as the



Patrick Michael Dukeman: Miss G?

sanctimonious Miss Bible Belt, Justin Weatherby as a dangerously sweet Miss Deep South, Daniel Howard as the spacey Miss West Coast, and Tomas Theriot as the gingham-gowned Miss Great Plains.

Trauma Flintstone is something of a ringer as Miss Texas, bringing his trademark rubber face to a performance that goes more for the burlesque than the other actors. Then again, you

next page ►

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# Future studies

## 'The Violet Hour' bows

by Richard Dodds

When the word "gay" became a synonym for homosexuality, did the specific quality it once described disappear? That's the opinion of one of the characters in *The Violet Hour*, Richard Greenberg's follow-up play to his gay baseball drama *Take Me Out*.

That a quality needs a descriptive word to exist is a debatable point, but what makes the argument intriguing is that it is proffered by the character on April 1, 1919. How could he know of the cultural semantics to come decades later? That is the *Twilight Zone* twist that gives this curiously toned play a second-act kick.

The first act plays out as an uneasy mix of slapstick comedy with characters speaking in aphorisms, making off-kilter arguments, and cracking clumsy jokes. It all turns out to be a set-up for the second-act surprise, but there is some slogging to be done before the intermission arrives in director Bill English's production at the SF Playhouse.

The play takes place in the paper-strewn office of a dashing young publisher who has the resources to publish one book: either the sprawling first novel by a college buddy or the memoirs of an entertainer who is also his secret lover. As these characters fly in and out, making their cases for publication, a high-strung factotum announces the arrival of a mysterious machine that periodically spews paper into the air.

Other than the comic-relief character of the office assistant, each character has an historical antecedent. The publisher is modeled on Maxwell Perkins, the college buddy on F. Scott Fitzgerald, the buddy's fiancé on Zelda Sayre, and the entertainer on Josephine Baker. All are exploding with the jazz-age energy that followed the first World War. "We came through the worst," enthuses the



Liam Vincent (left), Louis Parnell.

publisher. "It can never be that bad again."

Of course, it will be that bad — and worse — again, and the play raises interesting questions about our relationship with the future. Greenberg also scores several sharp points about the muddle that the official record known as history really is.

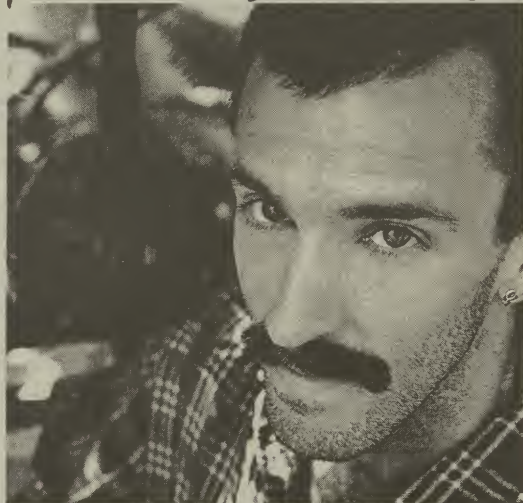
A confident Liam Vincent has the right stuff for the young publisher, and Kevin Rolston eventually finds a balance between stiffness and over-reaching as the aspiring novelist. Lauren English connects well with the slightly scary, Zelda-like fiancée, but Kathleen Antonia doesn't find much flourish in the flamboyant entertainer. Louis Parnell pushes the limits of entertainingly zany as the office assistant.

*The Violet Hour* at times feels more like an exercise than a drama. The playwright has points to make, which trumps his interest in creating characters, dialogue, and situations rooted in a familiar reality. But those points are often worth hearing, even if the future will always win. ▼

*The Violet Hour* will run at the SF Playhouse through Oct. 23. Tickets are \$30. Call 677-9596 or go to [sfplayhouse.org](http://sfplayhouse.org).

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# Criminal pastiche

## It's a 'Beggar's Holiday' in Marin

by Richard Dodds

**B**eggar's Holiday can claim three world premieres. The first came in 1946, when the Duke Ellington musical opened on Broadway. The second premiere happened a decade ago, in Chicago. And the latest is now at the Marin Theatre Company.

How can one show have three world premieres? After the Broadway production closed, no one thought to preserve the script and the score. And that was that until Dale Wasserman, who wrote the libretto for *Man of La Mancha*, made it his mission to reassemble the show from surviving scraps. Wasserman created a new book for a 1994 Chicago production, replacing the John LaTouche original, and he has further retooled it for the Marin staging. What mainly sets it apart from the Chicago version, and lets Marin declare another premiere, are four new songs by arranger Don York to augment the original Ellington-LaTouche score.

At this point in the game, it's hard to know how to parcel out credit and blame. Certainly there are some inviting melodies that have the Ellington stamp, but others sound as if the composer was going through the motions of writing in a conventional Broadway style. The new arrangements have also de-Duked some of the sound.



Dani Marcus (left), C.N. Jackson

Wasserman has said in interviews that LaTouche's original libretto was a mess, and we will have to take his word that his replacement script is an improvement. But there remain sizable problems with focus and cohesion, and his winks to contemporary audiences (including a reference to Starbucks and a few bars of "The Impossible Dream") are a little cheesy.

The musical is based on John Gay's 1728 *Beggar's Opera*, also the source for *The Threepenny Opera*. While *Threepenny* has the

edgy political undercurrents of anything by Brecht, *Beggar's Holiday* has a much lighter feel. At least until the title characters goes off on one of his Will Rogers-like monologues poking fun at politicians. One suspects that this is another Wasserman interpolation.

*Beggar's Holiday* anticipates musicals like *Chicago* that tell their stories as show-biz pastiches. Here the plot unfolds from a blind beggar's daydream that he is a sexy criminal named Happy Mac who has a bevy of women vying for his attention and a band of crooks at his disposal. Familiar *Threepenny* names turn up. Jenny and Lucy and Polly are all on hand, respectively as the tough-gal owner of a juke joint, the renegade daughter of the constable, and the good-girl daughter of a crooked couple.

There are several hot performances, including Cathleen Riddle's Jenny and Virginia Wilcox's Lucy. But there isn't much heat in Christopher Neal Jackson's otherwise agreeable performance as Happy Mac.

While it makes sense that the beggar's dreamworld would borrow from a variety of song-and-dance sources, neither Lee Sankowich's direction, Richard Gibbs' choreography, nor Wasserman's book keep the show from looking more like a jumble of styles and clichéd conventions than clever quotations of theatrical sources. ▼

**Beggar's Holiday will run through Oct. 10 at Marin Theatre Company. Tickets are \$28-\$46. Call 388-5208 or go to [marintheatre.org](http://marintheatre.org).**

## Pageant

◀ previous page

don't hire Trauma Flintstone in a search for satiric subtlety. Besides — who knew? — he has great legs.

Patrick O. Sanchez first appears as the heavily Hispanic Miss Industrial Northeast, and Sanchez tops that performance as the returning "old queen" who does mocking capsule versions of each of the contestant's talent showcase.

Alvy Holloway gets the smarm right, and shows off a good voice, as emcee Frankie Cavalier. Musically, the entire show sounds good under Michael O'Dell's musical

direction. Bill Russell and Frank Kelly, who wrote the book, also provided the clever lyrics for Albert Evans' tuneful music.

You get the feeling that the creators got hooked on *Miss America et al.* as kids, and probably still watch its various permutations with impish glee. They mine the clichés of these contests, but do so with a smile. *Pageant* doesn't want to change the world — or even the channel. ▼

**Pageant will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Oct. 17. Tickets are \$20-\$32. Call 861-8972 or go to [nctcsf.org](http://nctcsf.org).**

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## OPERA

# Don't rain on this 'Traviata'

San Francisco Opera's star power in principal roles

by Stephanie von Buchau

I can't tell you how annoyed I was by the number of people who, during San Francisco Opera's superbly sung and acted revival of *La Traviata* last Tuesday night and afterward, read me that old, tired tale of how stiff Dmitri Hvorostovsky is, and how Ruth Ann Swenson is too cold to be an effective Violetta. They mostly loved the tenor, Rolando Villazon, but after all, he's new and they didn't have any negative invective stored up for his performance. Give it time.

What did I feel? Mostly I wished they would go away and stop raining on my parade, because I haven't heard a Verdi cast in San Francisco that evenly matched, that musical and that dramatically on the money in eons. I've heard some sensational Violettas in my 58 years of opera-going, starting with Licia Albanese, Pat Brooks, Joan Sutherland, Katia Ricciarelli and Tiziana Fabbicini, but they didn't have good partners, conductors or (except for Sutherland) really fine techniques.

Swenson — in a becoming dark wig which may have helped tip her usually sunny persona toward a woman painfully aware of her fatal illness and last chance at happiness — has more voice and technique than any of the above, except Sutherland, who was great only in Act III. She glittered through the feverish coloratura of Act I, not needing that spurious E-flat to bring down the house. Her legato singing in "Dite alla giovine," complete with gorgeously suppressed sobs, would have melted a father only slightly less flinty than Hvorostovsky's Germont.



Ruth Ann Swenson (Violetta) and Rolando Villazon (Alfredo Germont)

He, his handsomeness disguised by facial hair, was indeed stiff and angry. The whole point of that scene is that Violetta's grace and sincerity gradually changes Germont's mind about her. A couple of times Hvorostovsky almost reached out, then thought better of it. People who call him "cold" may not like his Italian style, but he is the only living baritone who makes me resent the decision to cut Germont's cabaletta. If Hvorostovsky is a "cold" singer, I'm the Queen of Romania.

## Power play

Swenson can be annoying in Italian opera. I never liked her Lucia, though I never liked Beverly Sills, either (they are both better in French music), but the point is: listen to what is on stage tonight, not to some CD in your head of what happened 10 years ago in a different opera. Unlike Violettas who can successfully traverse the

first act, Swenson also had plenty of power for "Amami, Alfredo" and "Grand Dio! morir si giovine!" Her flashy, white-gowned courtesan of Act I (shades of Scarlet O'Hara) seemed to shrink, get paler and sicker as the evening went on. I found her final scene moving and truthful, all within the context of singing beautifully, in tune, with good diction and acting with restrained, specific, detailed gestures.

It certainly didn't hurt that Villazon, who looks kinda goofy in photos, is a real dish on stage. Slender and ardent, he gets right in there with the soprano, no discreet cheek-nuzzling. Maybe his passionate approach lighted Swenson's fire, who knows? Just listening to him sing could ignite wet wood, for the voice, bigger and more robust than the usual caponish Alfredo, rings with masculine, musical authority. In the last 25 years, SFO has only had

one exciting Alfredo, Marcello Giordani, and he was wasted on Carol Vaness' bland Violetta.

One great thing about this cast that has not been the case during the Rosenberg reign is that you could hear them all, loud and clear, big, handsome, well-trained operatic voices, yet they didn't shout or strain. They floated on a bed of sound produced by conductor Patrick Summers, crisp and light-footed in the dance music that peppers this score, but also tender and caressing in the preludes, with wonderful *obbligato* playing for the arias and a swinging, swaying ensemble at Flora's party that made me repeatedly catch my breath.

This may not be the only way to present *La Traviata*, but it is the only way that works in a barn like the War Memorial. There was not a trenchcoat in sight. ▼

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# Good morning, Vietnam

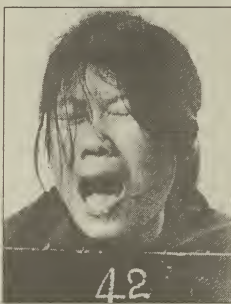
'Hearts & Minds' comes to the Castro

by David Lamble

Peter Davis' gut-wrenching anti-war documentary *Hearts & Minds* feels like it's been locked away for the past 30 years. Like Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*, *Hearts & Minds* was bankrolled by a major Hollywood studio, toasted at film festivals, and the subject of a tempest at the 1975 Oscar ceremonies, when an acceptance speech by one of its producers, Bert Schneider, included the stunning phrase "Greetings of friendship to all American people," from the Vietnamese ambassador from the Provisional Revolutionary Government at the Paris peace talks.

By the time most Americans actually had a chance to see the film, Saigon had fallen, and Nixon had resigned in disgrace. The country had moved on. A film whose challenging composition demands multiple screenings had hardly been seen at all. Catch *Hearts & Minds* at the Castro Theatre, September 24-30. The film is less a political documentary than a richly complicated poem whose ingredients are the rawest products of the American experience.

*Hearts & Minds* begins with an ESPN-like recap of the plays of



Rawest product of American power

the week: the era's most infamous political quotes. We see Lyndon Baines Johnson announcing that "Victory [in Vietnam] will depend on winning the hearts and minds of the people who actually live there." Johnson is followed by his arch-foe, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman William J. Fulbright. "A lie is a lie. A criminal act if said under oath. Mr. Johnson didn't say it under oath."

Anti-war activist Daniel Ellsberg will drive the point home. "Truman lied, Eisenhower lied, Kennedy lied, Johnson lied, Nixon lied. It's a tribute to the American people that they needed to be lied

to. It's not a tribute that we believed the lies."

Unlike Moore, Davis wasn't compiling a two-hour commercial against a sitting President. And unlike Moore, Davis didn't use his own personality to cover up any inconsistencies in his arguments. For all the searing footage of war atrocities — Vietnamese children with their skin burned off after exposure to napalm, the assassination of a handcuffed Communist prisoner by a South Vietnamese Army officer (perhaps the most iconic and reproduced image of the entire war), a South Vietnamese soldier digging graves with a shovel in one hand and a bottle of Coke in the other — the film is most gripping when it uses the experiences of ordinary GIs to examine whether Vietnam was an aberration or actually a logical byproduct of the way Americans educate their young men.

Kicked off by a Busby Berkeley-like chorus line of uniformed guys in a synchronized dance number complete with bayonets, then cutting to a football locker room in Niles, Ohio, where the coach works his young charges into a war-like frenzy, then moving on to a truly surreal moment when the camera sits with two GIs

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# Killer season on the lavender tube

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The new TV season is ratcheting up. Tonight, Donald Trump fires someone (*The Apprentice* is even more dastardly than the first season), someone else is voted off the island on *Survivor* (we haven't formed our alliances yet), Janet Jackson guests on *Will & Grace*, terrible things happen on the season premieres of *ER* (will Kerry get her son back from her dead lover's family?) and *CSI*. It makes one glad for VCRs and TiVo.

Be sure to set both this Sunday. Long a family-hour wasteland, Sunday now has intriguing fare for grown-ups. On the WB, *Jack & Bobby* is one of the most interesting new shows. One of two brothers (Matt Long is real heartthrob material) will be President in 2040, but even their professorial mother (Emmy and Academy Award-winner Christine Lahti) doesn't know which one (one of them will die). This *West Wing* meets *X-Files* really works. The show's only flaw is it is in the same time slot as our new guilty pleasure, ABC's *Desperate Housewives*, which premieres Sunday. For those who have, like us, missed *Dynasty*, *Melrose Place* and *Knot's Landing*, sex and the prime-time soap are back. We love this show: campy, sexy, dark fun.

DHW runs right into another fave of ours which also premieres Sunday, *Boston Legal*. We admit we have had a thing for James Spader since *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, and he does not disappoint us in this whiplash spin-off of *The Practice*. Arch, bitter, vicious fun. Also premiering soon is Wanda Sykes' new show on Comedy Central (10/5). We know there was a time before we knew who Sykes was, but we can only imagine what a mirthless period that was.



Sykes: Nothin' doin' for \$200.

Sykes is the funniest woman since Roseanne (back when Roseanne was funny) and the funniest black comic since Chris Rock. In *Wanda Does It*, the comedienne learns various jobs. She does a turn at that infamous ranch in Nevada ("You want me to do all that for \$200? I wouldn't even look at it for \$200!"), tries out minor surgery, and so forth. Sykes describes her show as "[HBO's] *Curb Your Enthusiasm* [on which she also stars] meets [NBC's] *Fear Factor*."

We caught Sykes on Leno the other night, where she had fellow guest Jude Law in stitches. Right in the middle of a bit, she turned to Jay and noted of Law, "He really is devastatingly handsome. Devastatingly." Of course, we have thought that ever since the bathtub scene in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, but Sykes put it in perspective with her descriptions of tornadoes whirling and cars exploding when Law walks down a street.

As ever, Sykes had her inimitable takes on the world. On plastic surgery: "There's so much of it

now there's just no excuse to be ugly anymore." On gastric bypass: "Look, everybody knows you lose weight by dieting and exercise. Gastric bypass is cheating. I think we should pretend that they're still fat." On Dick Cheney: "I thought he went over the top when he said we're going to get hit again if we don't elect Bush. That's what the terrorists do, they scare you like that. So I think Cheney was saying, if we don't win I'm gonna blow something up."

Don't miss Sykes' new show. There's no funnier woman in America.

## Still Walters

In the midst of the fresh new shows, it's easy to forget the old standbys. September 17 was Barbara Walters' last night on prime time. She exited 20/20 with a two-hour retrospective on her 25 years as the major female voice of television journalism. In recent years she has focused mostly on celebrities, but Walters was the woman who put women in anchor seats. Watching the overview of her long, impressive career, and watching *Nightline* and *Oprah* doing the same last week, was a reminder of what it took to break through the glass ceiling from weathergirl to anchorwoman.

Although she has been the endless butt of jokes over the years, from *Saturday Night Live* skits to late-night monologues (Jimmy Kimmel skewered her again in his monologue, noting that after "835 years on TV" she would be missed, splicing in scenes of her interviewing Lincoln, Washington, Adam and Eve and a mastodon), Walters really broke amazing ground in her personal interviews with heads of state: every American President since Johnson, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and others. There has been far more to Walters over the years than her insipid (if Emmy-winning) daytime talk show, *The View*.

We aren't sure what we think about Oprah's new season, a mix of *Let's Make a Deal* and *The 700 Club*. The car giveaway was okay, but we liked her giving a house to lifelong foster parents and a college education to a homeless Los Angeleno girl better. We're glad she's revived her book club. It was fun seeing *Will & Grace*'s Megan Mullally on Oprah reading *Anna Karenina*, and even more fun seeing J-Lo reading it on the subway on the *W&G* premiere. We love Tolstoy, so having him top *The New York Times* bestseller list 150 years after his death is pretty cool. Oprah's latest pick is Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth*.

Now we must speak of the brouhaha over 60 Minutes. Their reveal of documents about George Bush's military service continues unabated, with Dan Rather and CBS under fire for alleged fraud over the disputed documents. ABC and NBC have been salivating over the debacle, we think in retaliation for CBS getting the jump on the Abu Ghraib scandal. Fox called for a congressional inquiry, but even the Republicans laughed that idea out of the ballpark. Jay Leno noted wryly, "What do you call CBS

News after they lose all their credibility? Fox News."

What no one mentions in the debate over the documents is that neither Bush nor the White House press machine disputes the content and substance of the documents, just the documents themselves. Which pretty much substantiates Rather's assertion that the meat of the documents is correct.

It's neat the way both the Republicans and the Democrats have been able to make the current election about the Vietnam War. Because the war on Iraq is so much messier to deal with. Not that anyone is dealing with it, and every network should be ashamed at how they are minimizing the escalating violence in Iraq. More than 1,100 American troops have been killed, and there have been more than 14,000 American casualties (injuries, accidents, psychological breakdowns). The International Red Cross estimates that more than 50,000 Iraqis have been killed in the war, with countless injuries.

Last week, as the big three networks vied for time over the documents debacle, US troops killed 60 civilians

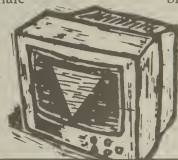
in a mortar attack. A planned mortar attack. The dead were predominantly women and children. No insurgents. None. The atrocity went unmentioned except on Internet blogs and NPR. Is this what the war on Iraq has come to — that Americans can kill a massive number of civilians and no one cares?

The most chilling show on TV in recent days was not ABC's premieres of *NYPD Blue* or the fantastic new show *Lost*, nor NBC's riveting *Law & Order* premiere, it was *Nightline*, which ran a BBC report on the events in Beslan, Russia, two weeks ago when more than 350 people were killed in an Islamist terrorist attack on a school. The majority of the dead were children.

We've reported on a significant number of horrors in our years as an investigative reporter, but little prepares one for the slaughter of children. One of the most disturbing aspects of the piece was that the BBC used child interpreters for the child survivors who spoke to them. Hearing, in English, small children tell of atrocities no adult should witness was almost unbearable.

Many of the dead children were beheaded. Beheaded with their limbs cut off. One man told reporters he identified his young daughter by her red panties and the cross she still wore around her neck. Her head was missing.

Ted Koppel introduced the show by noting that the event had gotten little coverage in the US because it occurred during the Republican National Convention. The totalitarian takeover of Russia by Vladimir Putin got little coverage this week because President Bush was otherwise engaged, begging the question of who is actually running America while Bush is running for President. As the image of headless children haunts us, what exactly is Bush doing to make this nation or the world safer? Nought that we can apprehend. Like a bad TV show, he needs to be canceled before next season. Stay tuned. ▼



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## FILM

# Lesbian visibility in Paris

John Duigan's 'Head in the Clouds' romance

by David Lamble

In the new movie *Head in the Clouds*, a handsome working lad, the son of a policeman on scholarship to Cambridge, is struck by good fortune one rainy night when an incredibly gorgeous woman tumbles into his garretlike dorm-room like an early Christmas present. Guy (the very hunky, one-time professional boxer Stuart Townsend) quickly offers Gilda (Oscar-winner Charlize Theron) the use of his bed without him in it.

What begins as a quirk of fate turns into a lark as Guy and Gilda are caught out in an act of passion the morning after a drunken party by a group of upper-class snobs. As is often the case in the romantic films of Anglo/Australian director/writer John Duigan, the hero will find the entire world united in a conspiracy against his getting the girl, including, in this case, another, equally lovely girl, the Spanish-born model Mia (Penelope Cruz).

*Head in the Clouds* is that rare treat these days, a triangular adult romance spanning two decades, two brutal wars, an entire continent and some esoteric sexual fireworks that contemporary viewers may assume were invented in San Francisco. If you think Theron was a hellraiser in *Monster*, just wait 'til you catch her whipping the butt of some French S/M cad to avenge her girlfriend.

Director Duigan's passion for doomed love playing out between the great wars of Europe comes partly as an accident of birth. His father flew an unimaginable 88 missions as a bomber pilot for the Royal Air Force, which is where he met Duigan's mother, whose own first husband was shot down early in the war. Born in Britain, at 10 taken off to Malaysia, where he would be subject to unmerciful teasing because of his strange accent, and later sentenced to live out his adolescence in the Australian boondocks, young Duigan learned to box and to dream.

A mild-mannered, bespectacled man who resembles a Cambridge don far more than a world-class filmmaker, Duigan is quietly emphatic in his feeling that his film is, at its tangled heart, a passionate exploration of the fateful role of Paris as a cauldron for much of the artistic world in the 20th century's first half. "Any thinking person at that time was aware that there was an almost inevitable drift towards war. People were living that much more intensely. Some of them, like Gilda, were closing their eyes to what was going on, and others [like Guy and Mia] were finding other ways of responding politically."

At first blush, Gilda may appear a totally free spirit, the very epitome of a bohemian artist, but Duigan says he had a very specific sense of her character. "I wanted to explore a character who believes that her life is governed by fate, and the tension between that and her natural character, because she likes to live as spontaneously as possible, which is completely at odds with thinking that life is, as she puts it, 'lying in wait for her.'"

## Romantic models

I asked if he had any particular model for the romance between Gilda and Mia.

"It wasn't based on any people



Director John Duigan with Charlize Theron, left, and Stuart Townsend.

I had researched, it was more of an intuitive evolution of characters. Photographs of the time bear out that there was a large, active homosexual community in Paris between the wars. In fact, increasingly there's material about a group of lesbians who lived very visibly in Paris. It was a much more open society than our societies in most cities today, although maybe not a city like San Francisco."

As he demonstrated in his captivating boarding-school comedy *Flirting*, Duigan knows how the most unlikely persons can be affected by sadistic rituals. In one of *Head in the Clouds*'s most startling scenes, Gilda whips a male sadist who has taken brutal advantage of Mia.

"Mia is certainly drawn to a strong, manipulative Gilda, and when she is having to deal with the fact that their relationship is being trespassed upon by Guy, she chooses to engage Gilda's attention again by teaming up with another strong, manipulative character, called Lucien. I think that Gilda recognizes that side of Mia's nature, and she immediately knows that Lucien is responsible when she comes across Mia crouched in the bathroom, with

whipmarks all over her."

Duigan says the whipping scene was staged with the full collaboration of Charlize Theron as the wielder of the whip, as, in fact, a nascent dominatrix. "The way that Charlize and I decided to express that from her character's point of view was that there are moments of exhilaration when she's whipping him. Probably she doesn't altogether approve of that part of her response, but she does experience it, and it's slightly worrying and slightly beguiling. When she comes striding across the road, there is such an élan about it that you can feel that she's flying after that."

## Back to board

Duigan acknowledges the autobiographical DNA in *Flirting*, his breakout 1992 comedy that launched international careers for its young stars Noah Taylor, Thandie Newton and Nicole Kidman. Yes, like Taylor's Danny Embling, Duigan learned to box (as a flea-weight) in a Malaysian boarding school whose teachers used to cane their charges for the most absurd offenses.

Like *Head in the Clouds*, *Flirting*'s most memorable scenes in-

volve a doomed romantic pairing (Taylor and Newton) who express their burgeoning passion in ways that are most seductively romantic. Danny's premature ejaculation in their first serious make-out scene is not treated as a cruel joke, but as a chance for both teens to experience the other side of the pillow. Duigan feels most adult films short-change the role that sex plays in the inner lives of their characters.

"Sex is dealt with in a tiresomely limited way in many films. I think of sex scenes as an opportunity to explore the way people engage with one another, the way humor or tenderness can be woven into it and fierce passion as well. The scene where Gilda and Guy are making love in their bed after the bath scene, where Mia comes in on them, that gives a sense of time passing. They are so comfortable with one another, and the languid movement of the camera is in keeping with that post-coital languor." *Opens Friday.* ▼

## Hearts & Minds

◀ page 37

in a Saigon brothel, *Hearts & Minds* provides fly-on-the-wall access to some deeply personal internal narratives. A soldier chats to his buddy in the adjacent bed as he removes the bra from his hooker. "You know, if my girlfriend at home could see this."

Davis delivers his verdict by juxtaposing the polar-opposite reactions of several GIs. The most peculiar to us now comes from Lt. George Coker (POW 1966-73). Receiving a hero's welcome in his hometown, Linden, New Jersey, Lt. Coker takes a question at a Catholic school assembly: "What did you think of Vietnam?"

"A beautiful country, if it wasn't for the people."

Later, addressing a crowd of mothers, Coker says, "If you're proud of me, you should be proud of yourselves, because you made me what I am."

Late in the film, Randy Floyd, whose 98 bombing missions leads him to compare the job of a bomber pilot to opera-singing, is asked, "Do you think we're learning anything from this?"

Floyd softly replies, "We're trying not to." *Starts Friday.* ▼

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## Fight club

Thai history 'Bang Rajan'

by David Lamble

The new history drama from Thailand *Bang Rajan* presents a dilemma for Western critics and audiences alike, although a somewhat entertaining one. Presented in this country by Oliver Stone to cash in on the unquenchable demand for Eastern "blood operas," *Bang Rajan* depicts a moment in Thai history that is comparable to the siege of the Alamo.

The 1765 struggle for the village of Bang Rajan is central to the myth of the modern Thai state, dramatizing as it does the efforts of a ragtag peasant army to hold off the vastly superior forces of Thailand's longtime foe, the Burmese. The Burmese soldiers and their fat general are presented as uniformly dastardly and cruel. An American film that treated them in this fashion would be accused of racial stereotyping.

A distinctly modern note is sounded in the successful struggle of the Thai men to overcome their chauvinism by training their

women to fight. An unintentionally funny motif is introduced by the Thai hero's handlebar mustache. This facial hair gives actor Jaran Ngamdee an incongruous appearance, as if the head of long-time Bob Hope sidekick Jerry Colonna had been placed on top of Arnold Schwarzenegger's Conan the Barbarian body.

Director Thanit Jitnukul tries to overcome the inevitable monotony of the battle scenes with a quick cutting style that suggests more than it shows, although an odd body part can be seen flying through the air as we hear the almost funny squish-squish sound of soldiers stomping on corpses as if they were grapes.

The climactic battle scenes have an emotional power as the villagers of Bang Rajan make their Alamo-like final stand. *Bang Rajan* joins last year's *The Legend of Suriyothai* and this year's *Beautiful Boxer* as contemporary films that may finally give us a view of Thailand that transcends the polar clichés of *The Beach* and *The King* and *I. Opens Friday.* ▼



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## John Waters

◀ Arts cover

Johnny Knoxville, and Selma Blair. Ullman plays Sylvia Stickles, a grumpy, sexually uptight housewife who gets knocked on the head only to discover she's "become a rabid cunninglingus bottom," according to the director.

Knoxville, best known for MTV's reality series *Jackass*, is Ray-Ray, the leader of the Sex Addicts. The cast is rounded out with Isak, the sultry crooner-turned-actor who plays Ullman's husband; Blair as Caprice, their overly endowed, go-go dancing daughter, stage name Ursula Udders; and Suzanne Shepherd playing Big Ethel, Sylvia's mother who's leading the battle for Neuter normalcy. The movie also includes Waters' mainstays Mink Stole and Patricia Hearst.

## Hell monitor

The idea for the movie comes from his own experiences over three decades. "I went to Hellfire [Club in NYC] way before AIDS, before everything," he says of his own personal sexual education. "I read *The Erotic Minorities* in high school, which was the first book about subcultures of sexuality that I had ever heard of."

Waters also read books like *The Bear Handbook* while researching the movie. "I did some research, but more on the neuter stuff," he says. "Like the restored virgin and that kind of stuff, because I knew little of neuter extremes."

Mink Stole's character, Marge the Neuter, explains the idea of restored virginity, where the hymen is sewn up, and a capsule of fake blood is inserted to convince a women's husband that she is still a virgin.

Waters claims that everything in the film is based on some truth. Even the decency rallies that Big Ethel and Marge staged are part of Waters' memories of Baltimore. "There were decency rallies after Jim Morrison supposedly exposed himself in Miami," he says. "It was at Memorial Stadium, and it

turned into a race riot. I remember we all howled about it because we were all on LSD at the time, and we wanted to go to a decency rally. I'm glad I didn't, because it turned violent quickly. It sort of ended decency rallies in Baltimore."

In the movie, Ray-Ray introduces Sylvia to his 11 other disciples, whose practices include some of the most bizarre sexual fetishes imaginable, from infantilism to eating dirt. They come from every corner of the community, including the police station and the post office.

When Waters wrote the script, he was careful about the sexual practices he put in. "I didn't put unsafe ones in. I didn't put mean ones to women. I put ones that I thought could be funny. I didn't put in fisting; I didn't put in much S&M because, in spite of being done so much, it's not so joyous to me."

"I heard that the Motion Picture Association, they didn't tell me this officially, but I heard off the record that one of them was supposedly a doctor who explained what some of the terms meant. But I was hoping they'd bring them up in appeal so I could say, 'No! Felching is farting in the bathtub and biting the bubbles!' I mean, who's to prove it? I mean, that isn't what it means, but still how can you prove that? I thought that this would be a great debate to have with the MPAA, but they were too smart to bring that up."

"Has anybody really felched? I guess, but I don't know of anybody. No one's ever told me. I believe that some of these things are urban legends."

After making a true crime movie, a musical, and a terrorist thriller, the next obvious genre to tackle (obvious at least to Waters) was a sex education movie.

**'I grew up on sexploitation movies. I went to Benji's Drive-In when it used to show sexploitation. So this was my sexploitation movie, a genre I hadn't done before.'**

"So I tried to put in ones that would be humorous, that were more obscure, that were even crazier in a way. Like tickle top. I still don't get that one. I watched a tickle porn video. I don't get it."

As Waters explains it, these sexual practices may have once been considered odd, but in his mind at least, they have become more mainstream.

"Maybe it is because of sex and because of AIDS, which in my generation was just so, so devastating, and it's still devastating because I know 22-year-old people who are HIV-infected," he says. "How can you carefully make a movie about these sexual practices [that] before AIDS would have been thought of as dysfunctional, and now they are responsible? Because people have had to use their imagination to come up with alternatives to what used to be called normal sex, because it's unsafe."

## Fetish notebook

Waters, who doesn't use a computer, preferring to write his scripts out in longhand, tries to write every morning. He fills notebooks with ideas and lists, and develops his characters long before he starts writing an actual screenplay.

Some of his notebooks are filled with lists of sexual fetishes and euphemisms for sexual practices, like "felching" and "yodeling in the canyon." The movie, in many ways, is a crash course in obscure sexual terms. "Yodeling in the canyon" was approved by the MPAA [the Motion Picture Association of America] for a trailer that could play with all age audiences," says a surprised Waters. "I guess they didn't get it. It could play with *Benji*."

Waters expanded his vocabulary with research. "You go into any bookstore today, there are many slang, filthy-word dictionaries, [books about] sex acts. There's much research on it. I made many, many lists."

"But I didn't put in ones that weren't funny, that were offensive, like 'hunting the anchovy.' See, that one is offensive to me, where 'yodeling in the canyon' is joyous. And I made that decision a lot. I didn't use the ones that I thought were just not funny. Bad, bad taste."

"I grew up on sexploitation movies. I went to the Rex Theater all the time. I went to Benji's Drive-In when it used to show sexploitation. So this was my sexploitation movie. It was just a genre that I hadn't done before."

## Hit parade

To most of America, Waters is best known for *Hairspray*, the 1988 Broadway musical that took home eight Tonys. After years of raunchy movies like *Pink Flamingos* and *Female Trouble*, the hit brought Waters a certain amount of respectability.

"I joked to my mother that my halo was a little tight," he says.

But for someone like John Waters, critical success and greater acceptance aren't necessarily a good thing. Some critics have suggested that Waters' recent movies have been a return to his less-PC days of movie-making.

"There is a certain humor to me that there is a family that only knows me from *Hairspray* that goes to see *A Dirty Shame* thinking it's going to be like that," he laughs. "Although I think *A Dirty Shame* could be a musical. Why, *Cry Baby* is becoming one. Anything could happen in America. Anything."

The MPAA gave the new film an NC-17 rating, a stigma making it off-limits to a sizable chunk of the movie-going public. But although the movie is about sex, it doesn't contain any graphic depictions of sexual acts.

"I was shocked when I got an NC-17 rating," says Waters. "Believe me, if I was going to make an NC-17 movie, I could make one. But I didn't."

In fact, he thinks the real point of the movie is political correctness. "I always said that the joke ad campaign should be, 'Can tolerance go too far?' Because to me, it's making fun a little bit about political correctness, that every minority is supposed to be OK. Can you go too far?"

"I'm not saying I know the answer. Because I made it so there was no middle ground. You're either a neuter or you are a sex addict. Of course, I guess I lay somewhere in-between." ▼

**A Dirty Shame opens nationwide on Sept. 24.**

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## Hot House flix

◀ Arts cover

*Screw* was filmed in a local dance club, but the abstracted sets and theatrical lighting — the particularly luminous quality is a Scarborough trademark — give it the feel of an upscale sex club. There's no story; it's all sex. The cast is exemplary, with better-known players appearing more than once, alongside some mighty tasty newcomers, like foxy Joshua Adams and gauntly handsome Zachary Pierce.

The pros sizzle like never before. Owen Hawke sticks a huge dildo to the floor, mounts it, and plugs his mouth with Diego De La Hoya's fat wang until he's showered with Diego's huge load. Both Kent Larson and Tag Adams have been overexposed recently, but they're at their memorable best in *Screw*, especially Part 2. You'll thrill to the cocks-a-twirl as they ride their most revealing Reverse Cowboys, and Larson returns for his exciting first dildo scene, at the hands of porn vet Clay Maverick.

Adams' love of Hispanics and patented "I Want You to Use Me" attitude is quenched by Mario Ortiz and Rick Gonzales — what a long probe this guy wields! Adams is nearly upstaged by Troy Punk, a newcomer with a similar look. Although beefier, Troy's got the same clipped chest hair and boy-into-man look. Plus an incredible bubble butt, which is given a mighty workout in his flip-flop scene with sexpig Owen Hawke. Part 2 struck me as more pungent, and its Bonus Extra dildo/fisting scene with Carlos Morales is worth the price of admission alone.

The second line of films at Hot House is *Plain Wrapped*. A sprinkling of fisting is subsumed in these movies by the general Rectal Revelry that is Scarborough's obsession. He's made nearly two dozen movies that groove on a grandiosity of butt play, pitting some severely butch players against a deluge of dildos, rimming, and the occasional enema.

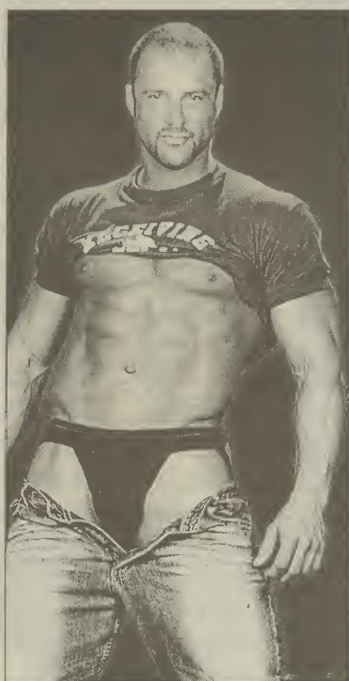
The company's infamous third line of Club Inferno hardcore fisting movies is perhaps their piggiest. Now, fisting's notoriety may make it seem like the defining activity of leathersex, that it's something all leathermen do. But, as sales figures corroborate, it's a niche market. I initially turned to fisting movies for their accompanying dildo play, but even though I don't partake of the fist myself, I've come to appreciate finesse of application and can imagine, dimly I'm sure, the sensations it affords. Scarborough hasn't directed any of the Club Inferno movies ("I'm not a fisting director," he avows), and the line rests on the solid bedrock of director Chris Ward's first films.

When Ward launched his own company, Raging Stallion, Wolfgang Bang took over. Where Ward brought a pioneering emotional tone to fisting, highlighting the deep connection between his men and underscoring the previously disregarded issues of trust and breathing, Bang shoots a more violent kind of scene. The first two parts of his *HandPacked* trilogy were idiosyncratic, featuring a (clearly consensual) rape fantasy, the refreshing locale of a New York rooftop, and some extreme dildo action and role-playing at a group party. The recently issued third part is more traditional, taking place within a sex club, but with no lessening of intensity. Wolfgang Bang's punning *nom de porn* may be one of the industry's more silly ("It's a little much," said Scarborough, "but I've gotten used to it"), but his movies aren't at all.

### Hand picked

The Club Inferno line has just become home to the Hot Hands series, which was created several years ago in a spasm of wavering identity by Falcon Studios. They were smart enough to hire Ward to direct them, but after a brief VHS release of seven titles, they jettisoned the line. "I thought we were a perfect home for the collection," Scarborough said, "so we bought it outright." All seven titles are now available on DVD, with the previously unreleased, three-part *Strong-Armed* just arriving.

It's curious that Ward's name doesn't appear on the boxes; I should think it a strong selling point. Ward's not hesitant to claim them, though. "I'm the fisting director," he told me immodestly but accurately. By his count, he's made over half of all fisting features ever made: 20 for Hot House, 10 for Falcon, and 15 and counting for Raging Stallion. The Hot Hand titles certainly look like Ward films. Hallmarks of the series are the abstracted sets of the black-box stu-



Kent Larson gets right to the point in *Screw*.

dio, which add immensely to the rapt intensity of Ward's unwavering focus on the action. The guys are surprisingly versatile, never seem to lose their hard-ons even while being fisted, and are generously forthcoming with OWFs: that's *Orgasms While Fisted*.

Ward's team of cinematic collaborators is excellent, his recurring cast of players superb. Let's start with the two-part *Up Your Alley*. "It's my personal favorite," Ward told me recently, "because it's an actual, real-time sex party." Imagine 10 guys gathered in the studio after the Dore Alley Fair, their assholes dilating as they don latex gloves and grease up their arms. Among the mind-blowing sights of *Alley* are two separate line-ups; one of six guys in a row simultaneously squatting on dildos, and another of eight guys all filled with fists. Rik Jammer's here, waving that incredibly knob-headed pecker all about (Jammer's among the top three on my Cocks I Want to Suck list, along with the meaty tool of Carlos Morales, and the interminable, steely poker of Andy Hunter). Another amazing sight is Jeff Allen sporting a sailor's cap and scarf. Imagine wearing this outfit to a fisting party! Everyone else is in leather with Crisco accents. Cute and butch and a flip-flop fister: Allen gives me a woody.

Subsequent movies are a parade of duos. Mark Everett's famously furry ass is featured not twice but thrice in *Ass on the Line*, and Aaron Tanner and the incredible Simon Cox dominate *Ass Wide Open*. Both *Butt In* and *Butt Out* deliver more of the acute anal skills of delicious dildo-lover Tanner, with *Butt Out* adding the absolutely unique Steve Pierce, a Dildo King whose ass does some long-distance launching of a cucumber before birthing an eggplant. I'm sorry I can't detail these movies at greater length. Take my word: for those who fit the niche, they are an all-at-once, sure-to-be-savored-for-some-time bonanza.

Leathermen have always been seekers. For better or worse, in sickness and in health, they have foraged amongst sensation. The breadth of that experience can be seen in the piggy but stylish movies of Hot House Entertainment. [www.hothouse.com](http://www.hothouse.com); (800) 884-4686 ▼

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# Tightening his heartstrings

Benfield finds 'Where Joy Kills Sorrow'

by Mark Mardon

Garrin Benfield seems determined to take his songwriting into the pop realm. He may just make it, based on his latest album, *Where Joy Kills Sorrow*, which he's released on his own Zacksongs Music label. But in an age of sugar pop, boy bands, R&B screeching and Madonna wannabes, he's facing an uphill challenge. For the last several years, as Benfield has made his mark on the San Francisco indie music scene, he's written gorgeous ballads that delve into love and heartbreak, delivered with the soul of a Country/Western artist, though up to now he's been a gay urban folksinger.

He's still gay, still urban, but finally he's moving beyond the folk genre, crafting a more commercial product. His musicianship is masterful, which helps. His guitar-playing is unrivaled, yet he avoids pyrotechnics. Now he's incorporating electronic loops, synthesized sounds, distortions and other tricks to flesh out his sound. The point of his songs, though, is the heart — how often it's been pierced, and how much it needs mending. Will this take him into the big time? Maybe not, but it will endear him further to his fan-base.

The title song, a downtempo number with an air of yearning, includes the refrain: "Take me tomorrow/ where joy kills sorrow/ tell me you'll understand/ so I might sleep." Benfield seems to be sending messages to his lovers through his songs. He seems dependent on them for inspiration, and clearly there are knots in his



Garrin Benfield writes ballads that delve into love and heartbreak.

conditional, lasting love dominates his life and creativity. Maybe he's a masochist, needing heartbreak to create. In this case, his lovers are props, foils for his songwriting. Although if Jason Durant has any say in the matter — he gets credit for managing and co-

ordinating the album production — it looks like Benfield has found a way to keep his partners at his side, begging for more.

## Sound check

relationships, which is what these songs are all about. At times he's optimistic, but the very tone of his voice, the plaintiveness, speaks to an inherent pessimism. He's still looking for his Oz, yearning for that place where love will triumph and difficulties will fall away. Maybe one day he'll make it, but the love he sings of speaks more to the past than the future: "We're gonna find a way/ not to destroy ourselves/ and we're gonna find a way/ to redeem ourselves this time." It's really a song about ache, rather than a bright light illuminating the path to bliss.

True happiness seems to elude Benfield. The struggle to find un-

ordinating the album production — it looks like Benfield has found a way to keep his partners at his side, begging for more.

Benfield's guitar still dominates, but he keeps it in check, doing service to the songs without trying to show off. The songs are tighter, sharper focused, and the guitars defer to the vocals and never try to dominate longtime collaborator Michael Rodriguez' piano. Benfield plays acoustic and electric guitars, sometimes both in the same tracks, one layered over another. Joshua Zucker, another longtime musical partner, plucks

the stand-up bass, and Russ Gold handles the drums. They've been working together for years, and that familiarity with one another shows. There's a distinctiveness to the sound that was in its infancy on earlier albums. Now each sound pops out in catchy ways. The folk flavor is gone, and they've latched onto a recipe for landing airtime on radio stations. The engineering and mixing by Rodriguez, a veteran Boz Scaggs collaborator, may ultimately be what gives these songs a commercial boost. More than ever, he seems to be in control of the product. Broadcasters and venue bookers respond best to artists in full control of their material. They like youth and insecurity and broken hearts, but they also like tight productions. Benfield has all that, and *Where Joy Kills Sorrow* may well put him on a path that will take him to that safe, loving, secure emotional haven he seeks.

The Garrin Benfield Band unveil the new album in concert (along with Hamsa Lila and Rock Me Pony) on Thursday, Sept. 30, at The Independent, 628 Divisadero St. Tickets are \$13 advance, \$15 door. Ticketweb.com. Garrin.com. ▼

**The point of his songs is the heart: how often it's been pierced, and how much it needs mending.**

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# OUT & ABOUT

## Fri 24

### Latin Explosion @ New Bench & Bar, Oakland

People from all over the Bay Area and beyond as far as Bakersfield enjoy Latin Explosion, the super-happening Latin gay night. Latin people and their admirers get together to enjoy what a weekend night has to offer. Live from LA: The Papi Dancers, DJ Jorge (Eclipse) mixes the latest Cumbia, Salsa, Merengue, Banda, Spanish Pop and House music. The hottest Go-Gos, the best bodies, and the nicest smiles. \$12 cover (no passes). 9pm-2am. 21+w/ID. 2111 Franklin St., Oakland. Info: 510-444-2266; www.bench-and-bar.com

### 25th Anniversary Party @ Esta Noche

Celebrate a quarter century of sin-sational Latin Drag at SF's premiere Latin Drag bar, Esta Noche, as this local legend celebrates its 25th anniversary! Special drag

show featuring MC Alexis Miranda and Queens of the Nite Galilea, Doris, Debora, Taina, Violeta, Emprisa Marlana and Cassandra. DJ Eclipse & Jose from San Jose provide tunes. Special buffet. Complimentary champagne. Drink specials. Open till 3am. 3079 16th St.

### Spaceholders Exhibition @ Space 743

Opening reception: Spaceholders Exhibition, an eclectic mix of 16 artists showing work in varied mediums in conjunction with Open Studios. Free. 6-8pm. Show runs thru Oct. 9 (Wed.-Sat., noon-5pm & by appt.). 743 Harrison St. Info: 415-777-9080.

### Dance Brigade

#### @ Dance Mission Theater

Dance Brigade's Annual Fall Choreographer's Showcase. Three different programs over three nights (Sept. 24, 25, 26) featuring the work of 14 Bay Area choreographers, both new and established, including Erin Suarez/Empire Dance, Oscar Trujillo, Jason Torres Hancock/Group, Kim T. Davis

Dance, and others. \$10 gen'l. 8pm. DMT, 3316 24th St. (across from 24th St. BART). Tix/info: 415-273-4633; www.dancemission.com

### Simon Sheppard @ A Different Light Bookstore

Reading/book-signing with the dean of gay erotica, pornographer Simon Sheppard, in celebration of his new collection of erotic fiction for men, *Hotter Than Hell*. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

### Daphne Gottlieb/Queer Open Mic @ Three Dollar Bill Café

Queer Open Mic, hosted by Cindy M. Emch. Featuring SF-based Performance Poet Daphne Gottlieb, who stitches together the ivory tower and the gutter just using her tongue. She is the author of *Final Girl* (Soft Skull Press, 2003), *Why Things Burn* (Soft Skull Press, 2001) and *Pelt* (Odd Girls Press, 1999). Open Mic sign up begins at 7:15; readings start at 8pm. Open mic readers get 5 minutes for one poem or 3 pages of prose, whichever fits the material best. *Queer Open Mic* happens on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of every month. Prizes for every reader and a free raffle for one lucky audience member. \$1-\$5 sliding donation (NO-TAFO). Proceeds benefit the performers, The Center and Feminia Potens. Three Dollar Bill Café, at the SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

### Seth Montfort @ Victorian Englander House

Seth Montfort, piano, performs a marathon 10 different concerts over two nights (5 per night) performed in leather & sportswear, more or less. Audience welcome to wear similar attire. \$5 at door per each concert. Featuring: 1. *Liszt in Leather* (9pm); 2. *Chopin in Chiffon* (10pm); 3. *Masked Balls & Witches Sabbaths* by Chopin, Liszt, Smetana, Cervantes & MacDowell (11pm); 4. *Wild Rides and Death Masks* by Chopin, Liszt, Gótschalk, Rosas, Nazareth & Joplin (12 Midnight). Victorian Englander House 807 Franklin St. @ Turk Info: 415-362-6080; www.sflclassicalmusic.com

### Houston Allied @ Russian River Resort

Writes beloved local cabaret/piano bar maestro Houston Allied: "Our gigs at Russian River Resort in Guerneville, California were greatly heightened by performances of guest artists, Jimmy Kason and Michael Krivit. Come enjoy the fun. RRR, Guerneville, CA. Toll Free: 800-403-1744

### JP Cutler

#### @ Red Devil Lounge

Hot on the heels of their recent opening slot for Epic Recording Artist Vm Emmich, the JP Cutler Band, fronted by singer/guitarist JP Cutler, blend ambient textures with Rock 'n' Roll and Americana. Deft, featuring deft finger-picking and unique suspended tonal inventions on six string acoustic guitar. \$10. 9 pm. 1695 Polk St.

### Grgreg's List Bonfire

#### @ Ocean Beach

Grgreg Taylor's annual queer bonfire during Folsom Weekend is happens tonight (Fri.) from 9pm to midnight on Ocean Beach. The bonfires are great mellow fun by the waves under an almost full moon. Bring friends, dogs, warm clothes. Parking, transportation info, location map and an FAQ are at grgreg.com/bonfire.

## Sat 25

### Single Spies

#### @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Gala Opening Night: *Single Spies* written by Alan Bennett. National Security, the Royal Family, and other Queens. How many Queens Can One Country Take? *Single Spies*, by Alan Bennett ("The Madness of King George") is a sparkling comic double bill pairing Bennett's two one-act plays: *An Englishman Abroad* and *A Question of Attribution*. Both are based upon real people and historic circumstances in the early years of the cold war and relate the real-life experiences of the "Cambridge Spies" who became both renowned and infamous in British society. It is also the first, and only time, a reigning British monarch is portrayed as a character in a play on stage. *Single Spies* opened to rave reviews at London's National Theatre in 1988. Subsequently a huge West End hit, these two witty and intelligent plays delighted a public intrigued by espionage and fascinated by forgery. Show runs Sept. 23-Oct. 17. \$35 Gala Opening Night with reception on Saturday, Sept. 25; \$15 Wednesdays, 8pm; Thursdays, 8pm; \$28 Fridays/Saturdays, 8pm; \$23 Sundays, 3pm & 7pm. Straight Night Out with reception Thurs., Sept. 30. Tix/info: 415-861-5079;

www.therhino.org

### Pageant @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season Ten: *We Are Family* presents the musical comedy *Pageant*, with music by Albert Evans, and book and lyrics by Bill Russell and Frank Kelley. Conceived by Robert Longbottom. Dyan McBride, Director & Choreographer; Michael O'Dell, Music Director. This rowdy farce pits six wacky beauty queens against each other in the Glamoresse Cosmetics annual extravaganza. Judges picked from the audience determine a different winner at every performance. Presided over by host Frankie Cavalier, who gives Wayne Newton a run for his money. \$20 previews (Sept. 10-17) & Wed.; \$26 Thu. & Sun; \$28 Fri; \$32 Sat.; \$40 opening night. 8pm (2pm Sun). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

### Gloria Anzaldua Celebration @ Main Library

Randy P. Conner and David H. Sparks host an afternoon of reminiscences and readings commemorating the life and work of the internationally recognized cultural theorist and creative writer Gloria Anzaldua, on the eve of what would have been Anzaldua's 62nd birthday. Just so you know, Gloria preferred "queer" to "lesbian" or "gay." Participants include: Uzuri Amini, Lenore Chinn, Elana Dykewomon, Sally Gearhart, Bob Gluck, Kit Quan, Jacqueline Marie, Cherrie Moraga, Canyon Sam, Mariah Sparks, Charlene Spretnak, Luisa Teish, Max Valerio, and others. Apologies to those who can't come due to Yom Kippur — please think about writing a brief statement, to be read at the event, regarding the significance of Gloria in your life &/or work & submitting it to Randy ASAP at [davran@mindspring.com](mailto:davran@mindspring.com). Free. 3-5pm. SF Public Library, Main Branch, Koret Auditorium.

### Mining the Leather Archive @ Main Library

The James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center of the SF Public Library and the Leather Archives & Museum of Chicago present: *Mining the Archives: A Story of the San Francisco Leather Communities*. An exhibition of historic materials on SF's leather communities from the Leather Museum's collection, including archival material on community activism, clubs and organizations, artists and contests. Gay men's, women's and pansexual communities also represented. Free. Show runs thru Sept. 30. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove). Info: 415-557-4277; www.sfppl.org

### Bashert Project Art Party @ The Refinery

*Bashert* — the term meaning "soul mate" in the Kabbalistic tradition. Come celebrate a year of collaboration between photographer Reverend Michel and painter Mim. What brought these two artists together just over a year ago was an idea for an art project. Unexpectedly what came out of it was not only an incredible body of artwork but an amazing love affair. Please join them in celebrating their creativity and love while enjoying the fruits of their endeavor. All paintings and photographs at the exhibit will be on sale and refreshments will be provided. The artists wish to acknowledge Eric Mirabel for the generous use of his space for the night of the exhibit. 7-10pm. The Refinery, 735 Harrison St. Info: [www.reverendmichel.com](http://www.reverendmichel.com)

### TV-LAND's Three's Company & The Golden Girls

#### @ Theatre Tableau Vivant

Pass The Hat Productions presents: TV-LAND Pilot Episodes of *Three's Company* and *The Golden Girls* Starring Arturo Galster, Heklin, Princess Kennedy, Julia Mitchell, and Jeffrey G. Simpson. Directed by Laurie Bushman. \$10 suggested donation. Plays September 25 and October 1 & 2; 9pm showtime. Theatre Tableau Vivant, 574 Natoma St. Tix: 415-621-8417; [jsimpsons@aol.com](mailto:jsimpsons@aol.com)

### Queens of the Nite

#### @ Esta Noche

Esta Noche's 25th Anniversary celebration continues with a Tardeada show at 7pm and Queens of the Nite Shows at 10:30pm & midnight. DJ Marco spins. Complimentary champagne. Open till 4am. 3079 16th St.

### Lucia Mendez @ Club Papi

Live on stage; direct from Mexico; Club Papi in association with Granda Entertainment presents: Lucia Mendez! Plus 3 Sensational Dance Floors, the Papi Dancers, drink specials, prize giveaways. Free DVDs of Mendez' video *MI Boda: Nuestra Historia de Amor*, a CD singles. Free samples of her perfume *Unisex* — "La esencia que enamora" (contiene feromonas). She'll autograph posters for those who purchase the perfume! \$20 cover (\$5 off b4 10:30pm w/flyer or



Team Slam Poet Emiliano Borgoio-Chacon joins jazz singer Diane Schuur for *Ever Widening Circle* at YBCA Theater. See Wednesday.

web printout). 10pm-4am. Space 550, located at 550 Barneveld Ave. (off Bayshore). Info: 415-675-9763; [www.clubpapi.com](http://www.clubpapi.com)

### BigMuscle T-Dance @ The Cafe

BigMuscle.com and BigMuscleBear.com are throwing a rocking meat-and-greet T-Dance at The Cafe, an opportunity to meet leather (and other) guys from across the country who are in town for the fair. Produced by Greg Taylor ([www.greg.com](http://www.greg.com)), featuring his favorite DJ Ken Vulsion (Forgotten Opera/SOCIAL) spinning updated "songs with words." Attendees don't have to have profiles on either website, but those who do can be certified at the event. Website proprietors Bill and Andy are also notorious for their generosity, so expect some freebie giveaway schwag that's totally worth scoring. The Cafe isn't normally open on Saturday afternoons, so a really raging private party. \$5. Noon-4pm. 21+w/ID. The Cafe, 2170 Market St.

### Seth Montfort @ Victorian Englander House

Seth Montfort continues with night 2 of his solo piano extravaganza in leather & sportswear, more or less. Audience welcome to wear similar attire. Featuring: 5. *Gauchos, Tangos, Fandangos & Huapangos* by Joplin, Paul Bowles, Villa-Lobos & Guastavino (3pm); 6. *Paris, Berlin, London, New York, Blues, Rags, Jeans by Satie, Hindemith, Lambert & Gershwin* (4pm); 7. *Battlefield Gymnasium*, Chopin, Liszt, Gótschalk & Blind Tom (9pm); 8. *Jungle Gymnasium Villa-Lobos & Montfort* (10pm); 9. *Beach Classics* Beethoven's *Tempest*, Debussy's *L'isle Joyeuse* & *Lecuona & Nazareth* (11pm); and 10. *Nightclub & After Hours Classics* by Joplin, Poulenc, Stravinsky, Milhaud, Mayre & Gershwin (12 Midnight). Victorian Englander House 807 Franklin St. (at Turk). Info: 415-362-6080; [www.sflclassicalmusic.com](http://www.sflclassicalmusic.com)

### Eric & Mitcho's 'Blow Out!' @ Noe Valley

WHAT: Mitcho & Eric's "Blow Out!" — an Ellis Act. Eviction farewell party for two popular gay men in the Castro, and a fundraiser for Supervisor Tom Ammiano. Join Mitcho & Eric as they host one last fundraiser/party at their infamous pad on Noe Street. Come by to support Ammiano, and stay to say goodbye to a small slice of SF history. Bring a donation for Tom, and/or bring new socks, underpants, or t-shirts for homeless queer youth. FYI: Mitcho and Eric are relocating to "The Shamanstar" in Sebastopol. Please stop by to wish them well. WHEN: This Saturday night, 7-10pm. WHERE: 192 Noe St. (at 15th St). INFO: For more party details or the full sob story, call 415-621-2855.

### Tubsteak Connection vs. Frisco Disco @ The Arrow

This Folsom Street Fair Eve, The Arrow ("The Bar on Sixth Street") and Aunt Charlie's Lounge ("The Bar on Turk Street") combine their mighty DJ forces to bring you Tubsteak Connection vs. Frisco Disco, Round II, a reprise of last June's omnisexual retro-electro disco frenzy. DJs Jefrodias, Richie Panic, and their gay next-door neighbor Bus Station John wreck the turntables, with special guest performance by NYC's notorious eroto-rapper Hounston Bernard and his pet pink python. \$3. 10pm-2am. Arrow Bar, 10 6th St. (at Market).

### Magnitude 2004

#### @ The Gift Center

Folsom Street Events and Jito Presents have joined forces The Saturday Night Event of Folsom Street Fair Weekend to present "Magnitude 2004," the official Folsom Street Fair leather dance party. Featuring DungeonBeats, Boy Butler, BigMuscle.com, Mr S Dungeon and ManHunt.net and "some of the hottest porn stars in town." Laser lights and dancing to the sounds of Montreal based DJ Mark Anthony (*Ritual*, *The Album*). "For the first time there is now only one ticket to Magnitude so all men will be able to explore the steamy DungeonBeats Lounge. Of course, as a trademark of all Jito's events, there is never a line at the door or at the coat and clothes check. \$50 online at [circuitticket.com](http://circuitticket.com); \$60 at retail outlets: The

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

## Novelties & greats

This proud gay weekend, a giant mass of hunky men and bitchin' beautiful women will gather to stroll in and worship and beatify that most un-PC yet widely appreciated element of clothing — leather — along with such kink-wear as Latex, fishnet, chain mail, jock straps, Liquid Leather or what have you. It's always a brilliant sight to behold and scene to experience. Many participants visiting from out-of-town, as well as locals, will also be searching for related diversions, be it nightclubs, poetry readings, or S/M parties. Here in SE, you can find all three in a single venue! I offer a few suggestions in the calendar. I also want to point out the vast array of superior cultural events being offered which may not be leather-related, but do represent the pinnacle of quality in the arts. It's a good chance to combine partying with edifying culture.

First, though, a word about Seth Montfort's leather/kink-oriented novelty act at the Victorian Englander House (see Fri. & Sat.). Though I haven't had occasion to attend one of his events, such as "Liszt in Leather," I've heard some of his live recordings, so I've got a taste of what's in store. It could be a blast, if you're in the right costume and frame of mind. I'm informed it draws a lively and appreciative crowd. Based on what I've heard, it's more cabaret than serious classical music. That's not to disrespect Montfort's work, which I appreciate for challenging stuffy classical traditions. It's just that I've heard far better renditions of *Rhapsody in Blue*, for instance, and I can't help referring to them as I listen to Montfort's version. There's a great deal of bombast in his playing. It works as a specialty act, but it's not quite ready for Symphony Hall.

What is ready, albeit scheduled for Herbst Theater this Sunday, September 26 at 8 p.m. is San Francisco's world-renowned Kronos Quartet. They're the second big act in The Fifth Annual San Francisco World Music Festival ([www.sfworldmusicfestival.org](http://www.sfworldmusicfestival.org); 415-561-6571), which kicked off last weekend at a concert at Grace Cathedral featuring stately, gray-haired eminence G.S. Sachdev, a master of the Indian bamboo flute, the Bansuri. It's the second time I've heard the deeply spiritual yogi in concert, and along with hundreds packed into the space, I sat rapt in meditation as the great breath master played his quiet ragas, backed up by tabla's reigning genius, Zakir Hussain, whose career I've been following closely, and this was his most moving performance yet. A big thanks to my long-time yoga teacher and close friend Stuart Siegel for introducing me to these brilliant, inspiring musicians!

Meanwhile, over at U.C. Berkeley's huge, modern, acoustically superior Zellerbach Hall, with its vast, gorgeously lit stage, and in Hertz Hall, a more intimate space, Cal Performances ([www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); 510-642-9988) is presenting a trio of world-class programs this week, starting Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 25 & 26, when Chinese-born choreographer/painter Shen Wei makes his Bay Area debut with his dance company, demonstrating his love of dance, theater, Chinese opera, painting and sculpture in *The Rite of Spring* set to the music of Igor Stravinsky, and *Folding*, set to the music of John Tavener and Tibetan chanting. (\$26-\$30; 8pm Sat., 7pm Sun.)

On Saturday, Sept. 26 at 3pm in Hertz Hall, Cal Performances presents the acclaimed European ensemble, Salzburg Chamber Soloists. Led by violinist Lavar Skou-Larsen, the 16-member ensemble makes its first Bay Area visit, performing Mozart's *Serenade in C minor*, K. 406; Dvorak's *Serenade for String Orchestra in E major*, Op. 22; and Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto in D minor*, featuring violinist Lena Neubauer. (\$48; 3pm.)

On Thursday, Sept. 30, classical grace joins modern spirit in James Kudelka's National Ballet of Canada, with a program called "Sightlines" including Kudelka's masterpiece *The Four Seasons* (1997), utilizing an ensemble of 27 dancers, and the world premiere of his solo work *Chacony*, set to Henry Purcell's *Chacony in G minor* for *Strings*. Featuring members of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, Ormsby Wilkins, conductor. (\$36-\$68; 7pm.)



Barking Frog (2215 Market St.); Mr. S Leather (310 7th St.); and in LA at Perfect Beat (8941 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood), 9pm-4am. Gift Center, Loading Dock Entrance, 888 Brannan St. Info: [www.folsomstreetfair.com/magnitude](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com/magnitude)

## Sun 26

### Folsom Street Fair

This year's Folsom Street Fair, the world's largest leather event, runs from 11am to 6pm and is expected to draw some 400,000 revelers from near and afar. This year the fair is dedicated to those runs of a different order, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, who well deserve to be honored for stirring up shit (excuse the French) and doing good deeds for 25 years! The Fair is located South of Market on Folsom Street between 7th and 12th streets. Beneficiaries include: Community United Against Violence (CUAV); Continuum; The Family Link; Frameline; Immune Enhancement Project; Lesbian Health Research Center; MAITRI - Residential Care for People Living with AIDS; Metropolitan Community Church; AIDS/HIV/HCV Nightline; Project Inform; St. James Infirmary; Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center; and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Info: [www.folsomstreetfair.com](http://www.folsomstreetfair.com)

### Sexy portraits

#### @ Mark I. Chester Studio.

Photographer Mark I. Chester will do a free digital portrait (digital file) for anyone who stops by his studio Folsom weekend to see the exhibit of radical sex photography by Barbara Nitke, Michael Blue & Midori and Shilo McCabe. Additional pix \$10 each. Pix will be emailed after being adjusted. On Sun. Sept. 26th, Mark I. Chester will be doing digital pix and the exhibition will be open during the Folsom St. Fair, which runs right outside Chester's studio. Sat/Sun, Sept. 25th/26th, noon-6pm. Mark I. Chester studio, 1229 Folsom St. Info: 415-621-6294; [mchester.best.vwh.net](mailto:mchester.best.vwh.net)

#### Stephan Ducat's The Wimp Factor

@ Modern Times Bookstore Reading/book signing with Stephan Ducat, author of *The Wimp Factor: Gender Gaps, Holy Wars and the Politics of Anxious Masculinity* (Beacon Press). An exploration of how male anxiety has come to define our political culture. Co-sponsored by New College of California. Free. 2pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246; [moderntimesbookstore.com](http://moderntimesbookstore.com)

#### Las Fantasticas @ Esta Noche

Esta Noche's 25th Anniversary celebration continues with a Tardadea show at 7pm featuring Doris, followed by Las Fantasticas shows at 10:30pm & Midnight, with MC Alexis Mirandola. Complimentary champagne.

### SF Hiking Club

#### @ Tamales Point

Enjoy rugged shoulders with herds of majestic Tule elk, plus spectacular views across Tamales Bay, Bodega Bay and the Pacific. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 1,200-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; [www.sfhiking.com](http://www.sfhiking.com)

## Mon 27

### Nuestra Belleza Gay Mexico @ New Bench & Bar, Oak.

Luna Azul productions presents: *Nuestra Belleza Gay Mexico 2004*. Part 1 of 3 Presentation & Regional Costume competition! Shows start promptly at 10pm. Info: 510-444-2266; [www.bench-and-bar.com](http://www.bench-and-bar.com)

## Tue 28

### OMNI @ New Langton Arts

New Langton Arts presents *OMNI*, a week-long celebration of the life and times of 70s underground cult star Klaus Nomi. Organized by the Berlin-based collective PP (artists D-L Alvarez and Gwenael Ratkic). A festival of film, memorabilia, music, theater & performance commemorating what would have been Nomi's 60th birthday. Nomi, whose persona combined elements of drag, science fiction and cabaret schtick, was the first known celebrity to die of AIDS-related symptoms, in 1983. His style and spirit inspired a glam New Wave revolution still visible in today's neo-punk ethos. A week-long installation of memorabilia and artifacts in Langton's Downstairs space serves as the gateway to the *OMNI* events, open from 12 noon-6pm. Sat. 28 Oct. 1. Located at 1246 Folsom St. Info: 415-626-5416; [www.newlangtonarts.org](http://www.newlangtonarts.org). The first *OMNI* event happens tonight at Transyhack!

### Mondo New York

#### @ Trannyshack

Rising tranny star Kiddie co-hosts *Mondo New York*, as Trannyshack joins with New Langton Arts to visit the Punk music scene of late 1970s East Village NYC. Part of the



Drop by Mark I. Chester's studio during Folsom Street Fair and get a free digital image of yourself. Plus see the exhibit of radical sex photography by Barbara Nitke (above), Michael Blue & Midori and Shilo McCabe. See Sunday.

60th birthday celebration for the late artist Klaus Nomi. Also: a DVD release party for "Mean Girls"! \$7 cover. Show at midnight. The Stud, 399 9th St. Info: [heklina.com](http://heklina.com)

### Viva Variety 43

#### @ Buriel Clay Theatre

One night only: "Make It So" Productions presents the 43rd variation of SF's longest running variety show, this month a benefit for AfroSolo Theatre. Hosted by Steve Murray, "the new Ed Sullivan." Featuring an eclectic mix of the finest local performers including: Harlem Shake Burlesque (first African American burlesque troupe in the United States); Sean Dorsey (dance); Spencer Day with Yair Eviline (jazz/pop); Bob Taxin (mentalist); Reanne Roads (comic songstress); Benn Bacot (vocalist); PA Cooley and Drew Todd (comic theatre); and Blake (comedy). \$15 (\$10 seniors/students/physically challenged). 8pm. Buriel Clay Theatre, 762 Fulton St. Tix/info: 415/863-0741 ext. #2; [www.makeitsoproductions.org](http://www.makeitsoproductions.org)

## Wed 29

### Yin Yang Ball

#### @ Bambuddha Lounge

Juanita MORE! hosts Quan Yin Healing Art Center's "2nd Annual Yin Yang Ball." Honoring Pat Denning, Ph.D. (Harm Reduction Therapy Center), Sean Strub (Founder of POZ Magazine), and Folsom Street Events. Fine wines, elegant foods, live & silent auctions, DJ music. All proceeds benefit Quan Yin's client services, providing care to all San Franciscans regardless of income, offering Acupuncture Treatment; Chinese Herbal Medicine; Therapeutic Massage; Qi Gong; Meditation; Complementary & Alternative Medicine for HIV/AIDS Care Management, Cancer Support Treatment, Chemical Dependency and Addiction, and more. \$25-\$50 sliding (\$250 V.I.P. includes 1-hr. massage and choice of one yoga or qi gong class). 6:30-9:30pm. Bambuddha Lounge, Phoenix Hotel, 601 Eddy St. Info: 415-861-4964; [melvine@spins.com](mailto:melvine@spins.com); [www.bambuddhalounge.com](http://www.bambuddhalounge.com)

#### Diane Schuur/Ever Widening Circle @ YBCA Theater

The World Institute on Disability (WID) and the corporation on Disabilities and Telecommunication (CDT) present the 6th Annual Ever Widening Circle: An Evening of Entertainment Celebrating Art and Disability. Presenting headliner Diane Schuur (Deedies), Grammy Award-winning jazz singer/pianist, praised by the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Count Basie, and B.B. King. Her latest Concord Records release, *Midnight*, is produced by Barry Manilow & Eddie Arkin. ([www.dianeschuur.com](http://www.dianeschuur.com)). Also featuring: Light Motion dance company (Charles Curtsis & Joanne Petroff, with Debbie Gilbert); C.J. Jones, humorist, actor, producer, director, motivational speaker, educator & advocate; comedian Fred Burns; and 16-year-old Lowell High School junior Emiliano Borgois-Chacon, a teen poetry slam champ who lives with cerebral palsy. \$15 & up. 7pm. Verba Buena Center for the Arts theater, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St). Tix/info: 415-978-2787; 510; 208-9493 TTY; [www.wid.org](http://www.wid.org)

### Noche de Vaqueros @ New Bench & Bar, Oakland

Get out your cowboy boots, jeans and hat for Noche de Vaqueros, the only Latino cowboy night in Northern California. Dance to the best in Cumbia, Banda & Norteña music. Also, *Queens of the Night* show comes to the stage at 10pm sharp. The fun happens every Wednesday starting at 8pm.

### Re-Tool and Grind @ EROS

Red & Cole present: *Re-Tool and Grind* — a transgender FTM open mic that happens on the Last Wednesday of each month. Come early and sign up with your 5-minute piece. Sign-up at 6:45; reading at 7pm. EROS, 2051 Market St.

### Gender Pirates @ El Rio

*Gender Pirates*: a benefit for United Genders of the Universe, offering genderqueer/transgender support groups and gender education. Featuring Lynnee

Breedlove as your MC, DJ Sam spinning hip hop, queer '80s, and punk rock. Radical Cheerleaders The Oakland FJacks. Burlesque: Burlesque-esque. Live Music: The Cruel and The Kind, Eli Wise. Spoken Word: Seeley Quest, Storm Florez, Julia Serano, Kumo, MK. Plus Drag! Homo-hop! for all you: freaks, punks, queers, transies, genderqueers, men, women, genderfuckers, multiples, intersexes, rockstars, shyboys, skaterz, strippers, activists, workers, artists, felons, and everyone else. \$5-15 sliding (NOT A L.O.F.). Doors at 7pm, Show 8-12am; DJ till closing. El Rio, 3158 Mission at Precita. Info: [www.elriosf.com](http://www.elriosf.com)

## Thu 30

### Total Eclipse

#### @ New Langton Arts

As part of OMNI: A Celebration of Klaus Nomi's 60th Birthday, New Langton Arts presents *Total Eclipse*, a play by Kevin Kilian and D-L Alvarez, set at a late '70s celebrity dinner party, performed by members of SF Poets Theater. Two nights only: Sept. 30 & Oct. 1. \$10-\$5 sliding; \$5 members/students/seniors. 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 415-626-5416; [www.newlangtonarts.org](http://www.newlangtonarts.org)

### Joseph Arthur

#### @ Cafe Du Nord

In concert: the great New York City-based singer/songwriter Joseph Arthur, along with Amy Cornea. \$12. 9pm. Ages: 21+. Standing. Info: [www.cafedunord.com](http://www.cafedunord.com)

### Living & Laughing With Cancer

#### @ Cancer Resource Center

BATS Improv and Laughing Stock present *Living & Laughing With Cancer*. An Evening of Improvisational Theater. Come ready to laugh and holler out whatever might be on your mind! Join BATS Improv players and student performers from their community service program, *LAUGHING STOCK* for a hilarious, interactive showcase based on your suggestions and an even more entertaining workshop afterwards. Improv, whether as a player or an audience member, is great way to learn what fun "living in the moment" can truly be just by saying "YES!" As a student, success is measured in the attempt to rekindle your imagination and creative natures, no matter how far buried they might be in your adulthood and in striving to cope with life-threatening illness. Our coach is experienced in nurturing folks at the introductory level. Participants who choose to stay and participate in the workshop should wear loose, comfortable clothing and sensible shoes for simple movement. 5-7pm. Held at 1600 Divisadero. Please RSVP at 415-885-3693.

### SF Open Studios 2004 Preview Gala @ SomArts

Private Preview Gala: San Francisco Open Studios 2004 hosts an exclusive benefit preview to the Open Studios Exhibition and the first opportunity to purchase art from Open Studios 2004 artists. Creative cocktails, gourmet food, lively entertainment and fabulous prizes. \$50-\$125 sliding. 6-10pm. SomArts Cultural Center, 234 Brannan St. Info: 415-861-9838; [www.sfopenstudios.com](http://www.sfopenstudios.com)

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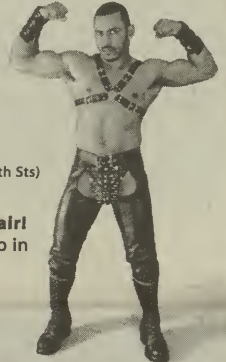
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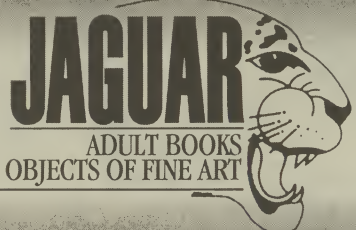
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# Chris Isaak talks 'Dirty'

## Disorderly conduct for auteur John Waters

by David Lamble

How do you get asked to be in a John Waters film? Singer Chris Isaak is sitting in a posh suite at the Ritz, doing his Boris Yeltsin impersonation and wondering if our chat will be over in time for him to get a little surfing time at Ocean Beach. Isaak remembers being on the road with his band, "actually I was riding my bicycle, I have a bike I keep under the bus. Imagine I'm in a strange kind of town, and I'm back behind a Sears that was going out of business, and I was digging around in the dumpster trying to see what they were throwing away, and I get a phone call. John Waters wants to know if I want to be in a movie, and I said, 'Yeah, as long I don't have to eat anything creepy or do anything too horrible.' John doesn't have any limits about what he'll ask people to do."

Waters describes the movie he asked Isaak to be in, *A Dirty Shame*, as "America's first carnal concussion comedy." Isaak plays Vaughn Stickle, the straight-laced but virile husband of Sylvia Stickle (Tracey Ullman), a Baltimore housewife who has lost her sex drive to the daily grind of running the family convenience store and keeping a watchful eye on her over-sexed daughter Caprice (Selma Blair), under court-ordered home detention following several "nude and disorderly" arrests.

The movie is based on the theory that a head injury can prompt a big increase in one's sex drive. Waters sets up a battle between a group of hypersexuals, led by tow-truck driver and sexual healer Ray-Ray Perkins (Johnny Knoxville), and a working-class Baltimore neighborhood's usual quota of repressed killjoys. Led by Big Ethel (Suzanne Shepherd) and Marge the Neuter (Mink Stole), the anti-sex forces gird for a final battle for the soul of their Harford Road neighborhood.

Sylvia and her friends are constantly having their libidos played with by what happens to their skulls while they're out of their minds. The punchline is whether this newfound sexual anarchy can lead its participants to the discovery of a new sex act.

Isaak says among the hardest scenes to film was the orgy of head-buttings that prompt different states of sexual excitement. A onetime amateur boxer, Isaak points out, "That's the kind of stuff you've got to practice to make it look easy, because otherwise it'll look really stupid. I kept thinking, 'I know somebody's going to miss by a half an inch and knock somebody out.' I wasn't worried. I have a strong head."

He admits there's a scene in *A Dirty Shame* that he's not proud of. "The masturbation scene. Because I was embarrassed. No one should ever see you masturbate unless they pay money. I think

most of us believe that, I mean if we're church-going. It was just something that you go, 'Where do I take this? John, I want to have a magazine or something.' I said, 'Do I have my pants off?' This is going to get kind of creepy really quick." With John Waters, it's good to clear things up beforehand, because you never know what's in his mind, or how far he'll take it."

### Physique manual

At 48, Isaak still has the leading-man good looks that won him a place in *People* magazine's poll of the best-looking people in 1990, plus the physique of the light heavyweight boxer he was during college. He quite literally fought his way out of the Central Valley. "I grew up in a family of three brothers in Stockton, California, which is Fat City. Ever see that movie? *Fat City*, with Stacy Keach? My boxing coach actually coached the guy who wrote that. I said, 'You coached the guy who wrote *Fat City*?' That was the closest I got to show business at that time. 'What was he like?' He goes, 'Well, he always dropped his left.' That was his stunning assessment of his writing!"

Isaak says boxing taught him a few valuable lessons about the will to succeed. "I'm not a tough guy, and no one's ever been afraid of me. I look like Richie Cunningham. You have to have a bad complexion and a bad attitude to be frightening, and I was neither. In

Tracey Ullman and Chris Isaak star in the new movie *A Dirty Shame*.

the ring, it was less about being mean and nasty than it was about perseverance."


He comes from a blue-collar background where show business could only be seen as a hobby. "My brother had a guitar, and I started stealing it. You know, you're in a small town. You don't go like, 'My uncle is in show business or my uncle makes films.' My dad worked at a box factory, and my mom worked at the potato chip factory."

A turning point in his life took place at a joint called The Emerald Cafe, where he had an important conversation with his mom and learned what turned him on. "Damn, they had this good-looking waitress, that's a sidebar, but

she had a bumblebee haircut. She was Chinese, she had a point in her bangs right in the middle, made me hot! She was older. I was 18, she was like 50, but she still had it going on. Sometimes when she handed you your cookies, she'd take your hand. I could live on that for a week."

At the Emerald Cafe, Isaak started talking about his plans for a job teaching English in Japan: sober, serious things he didn't really want to do. "My mom said, 'Is that what you want?' And I said, 'Well, not really.' And she said, 'What do you want to do?' 'I want to sing,' because I played eight hours a day at home. She said, 'Well, you better do that, or you'll regret it.'"

PHOTO BY TONY FONG

squeal party   
sunday night right after the fair  
09.26.04

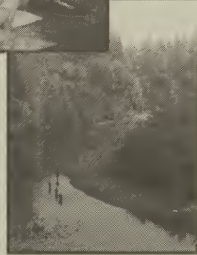
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Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- A change in the way your heart beats may occur and could be a symptom of a heart problem.
- Diabetes and high blood sugar may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).
- Rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking Reyataz, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within two weeks with no change in treatment.
- If you have liver disease, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

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**Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?**

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

**Who should not take REYATAZ?**

Do not take REYATAZ if you:

- are taking certain medicines (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**

Tell your healthcare provider:

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

**How should I take REYATAZ?**

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.

- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the usual dose is 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily taken with food.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg (two 150-mg capsules) plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.

Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).

- Always take REYATAZ with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or VIDEX® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

**Can children take REYATAZ?**

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

**What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?**

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

**The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:**

- rash (redness and itching) sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- if you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

**What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?**

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- HALCION® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- VERSED® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- ORAP® (gimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:**

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIXIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIXIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Aciphex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole).

**Do not take the following medicines if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:**

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

**The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:**

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- LIPTOR® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®), QUINIDEX®, and others).
- VASCOR® (fedindol, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORFRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or MVACTIL® (prothipryline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporine), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).

**The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:**

- FORTOVASE®, INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- VIDEX® (didanosine) or antacids.
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAVIN® (danthronycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

Women who use birth control pills or "the patch" should choose a different kind of contraception. REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of birth control pills or the patch. Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective contraceptive.

**Remember:**

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

**How should I store REYATAZ?**

- Store REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

**General information about REYATAZ**

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

**What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?**

**Active ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

**Inactive ingredients:** Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

\* VIDEX® is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. COUMADIN® and SUSTIVA® are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Princeton, NJ 08543 USA

This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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Revised July 2004



## BOOKS

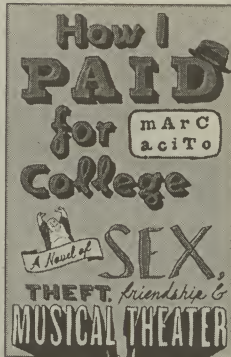
## Sing out, Louise!

by Robert Julian

*How I Paid for College* by Marc Acito; Broadway Books, \$21.95

How and why so many sensitive young gay boys are born into dysfunctional, brain-dead, hetero families is a subject worth serious exploration. But Marc Acito's first novel, *How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship, & Musical Theater*, simply milks this set-up for laughs. Young Edward Zanni is a high school senior from Hoboken, New Jersey, whose father will only agree to pay for business school, and whose divorced mother is off seeking self-realization in South America. Edward, of course, wants to go to Juilliard and study acting.

In this first-person narrative, Acito spells out Edward's 1984 senior year, with a cast of characters divided between Edward's partners in crime and his adversaries. Among the latter are Edward's father and his new wife, Dagmar, who successfully exile young Edward to the home of his girlfriend until graduation. Edward is somewhat sexually confused, unable to commit to girlfriend Kelly because he is so distracted by football jock Doug Grabowski and his huge



penis. Rounding out the Edward Zanni team are his druggie sister, Karen; a nerdy Jewish neighbor, Nate; Kelly's mother, Kathleen; and an exotic new teenage arrival, Zina, whose family was exiled by the overthrow of the Shah of Iran.

Author Acito gets the high school drama club phenomenon just right. Edward and his friends appear in the school plays, in leading roles, and live in a world somewhat apart from normal humans. Acito clearly understands and communicates the transformational nature of having success in front of an audience. But

like so many books in this self-consciously cute genre, *How I Paid for College* skirts dangerously close to imploding by virtue of its own rather contrived *fabulousness*. Every situation is life-or-death; every opposing force is stupid, insensitive, and contemptible; and every outrageous stunt Edward and his friends attempt is simply too funny for words. The sledgehammer of ironic sensibility falls heavy and often. Readers who paid for their own college education through gainful employment and/or student loans may also find Edward's dogged insistence on getting someone else to pick up the tab less than endearing.

Marc Acito's wild and crazy "drama kids" have a certain spunky charm as well as a great sense of adventure. Their escapades may serve as wish-fulfillment for the more pedestrian experiences of most high school seniors, making *How I Paid for College* a greatly entertaining read. Or Edward's unlikely exploits may be so over-the-top and narcissistic that readers never make it to chapter three. The difference will probably depend more upon on what each reader brings to the page than on what author Marc Acito has placed there. ▼

## Lips goes for it

by Sweet Lips

Recently, Emperor Steve Rasher asked me to lunch, but after 10 bars and a lot of beers, he had to carry me up my stairs! A nice drunk, it was, but I do remember seeing Dee at Aunt Charlie's, and being entertained by her and her morning crowd. I think I am a little too old to drink like that... but what the hell.

Gladys and Keith Bumps spent some time recently in the Portland area, and at the Embers/Broadway with Steve Suss and Buttercup, and by all reports they had a fab time. But then, everyone does when visiting Portland.

Don Sinclair had the Cinch put up a picture of me next to Bellpepper and Jim! Check it out. It is an old one that hasn't been seen before, so don't miss this in-

valuable piece of history. Thanks, Dan!

I'm sure you know already, but The Cinch Saloon is hosting "The First Annual Diva Search." Many of our local queens will be entering, aiming for the big prize. Don't you bother, José Sarría — it is for first-time drag queens only! The Cinch is located at 1723 Polk St., between Clay and Washington. Call them at (415) 776-4162.

Had a nice time with Little Mikey at the Club Rendez-Vous last Saturday afternoon. Just like old times. Really old times!

"The Last Friday Show" coming up at Club R-V will celebrate its 150th show! Well done! Also, congrats on the 16th year of 49er

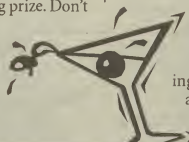
parties on Polk, hosted by David and L. James. They're always fun affairs with lots of prizes and surprises. Also at Club R-V, watch for Emperor's Night Out, coming up Saturday, October 16.

Club R-V is located at 1312 Polk St.; call them at: (415) 309-CLUB.

Yes, Mason is still holding fort at Gingers' Trois, and in case you haven't been there lately, they get a very handsome group of gentlemen.

I'm going to miss that very talented Pat Monclair. She did my makeup and wig and dressed me, thanks to Marlena, for my 80th birthday party, and I looked terrific.

Happy birthday to Jim Doan and that sweet man "Thor" on the 29th. ▼



## Cocktail Hour

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Fri. 9/24 Mr. SF Leather  
Meet and Greet  
8 p.m.  
Julian's LAST DEAL  
w/Mr. SF Leather 2004  
Benefits:  
Mr. SF Leather Travel Fund

Sat. 9/25 NipplePlay Party  
4 - 8 p.m.  
W/TREASURE ISLAND MEDIA  
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Sept 23, 24, 25

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On THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY (before Folsom Sunday) Wesco Boots factory representatives will be at the Stompers store. Kris & Val will be doing complimentary Wesco custom measuring. Our regular custom measure cost is \$25.00. Stomper will knock off an additional \$25 from the total custom purchase price. That's a \$50.00 saving! Call for appointment, or just drop in. Additional details on the Stompers Boots web site.

This is Thurs, Fri, Sat only -- before Folsom Sunday





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The Exiles presents the 8th annual

## Folsom For Play 2004

A Leatherwomen's Meet & Greet  
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Friday, Sept. 24, 2004

9:00PM - 2:00AM, Doors at 8:00PM

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Sunday, Sept. 26: Folsom Street Fair - visit us at The Exiles' booth

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For more information visit our web site: [www.theexiles.org](http://www.theexiles.org)  
Publicity graphics by Rocketgirl.com. Poster art based on Four Nudes by Tamara de Lempicka

## BLOW BUDDIES

San Francisco

### Cigar Party

Thur., Sept 23  
Yahoo's Bay Area Cigar Buddies  
Backyard @ Buddies 9pm  
(Regular Blow Buddies party in  
main part of club that same  
night.)

### Extended hours

Sun., Sept. 26  
door 4pm-4am  
play 'til 6am  
Mon., Sept. 27  
door 6pm-midnight  
play 'til late

### Extra Leather Buddies

Wed., Sept. 29  
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play 'til late.

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## Mister Marcus

◀ page 1

The whole day could not have happened without the help of countless volunteers. The marchers were serenaded with upbeat and inspirational tunes by Donna Sachet, Berlin, and several others who caused onlookers' heads to turn. The bartenders at the Loading Dock, Powerhouse, and Eagle went out of their way to assuage the thirst of the marchers who descended upon them en masse. Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt had no worries with anything. California Assemblyman Mark Leno was on hand to issue certificates of commendation from the California State Assembly to various individuals.

The ceremonial raising of the Leather Pride Flag was, as always, an inspiring interlude. As hundreds of observers looked on, the 30' X 60' black and blue banner ascended the flag pole at Harvey Milk Plaza. It was an inspiring sight that caused tears of pride to flow.

At the Eagle after the walk, a huge crowd was there to laugh, smirk, and guffaw at the bold jokes and subtle innuendo Mr. Lenny Broberg threw out almost every other minute of the 3 1/2 hour "beef-a-thon." Again, many came with plastic, cash and checks to support Mr. Broberg's favorite causes.

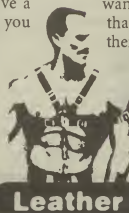
Hey, if you didn't have a good time last Sunday, you were probably comatose.

### Salute to leather

Yes, it's Leather Pride Week in San Francisco and already this past weekend, leather men and women from Germany, Amsterdam, Australia, Italy, Canada and at least 20 states are here. And all are ready to savor the incomparably heady atmosphere that is San Francisco.

More than 190 events are scheduled during the week, including the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest at 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 25, and the world's biggest leather event, the Folsom Street Fair, on Sunday, September 26. The "official" Folsom Street Fair guide is out all over town, and what a beautiful job. Surely it is a "collector's item."

If you want to meet the judges and the contestants for Mr. SF Leather, you must attend the Meet & Greet on Friday, September 24 at the Powerhouse. Outgoing Mr. SF Leather 2004 Julian Marshburn



Leather

will host a travel fund benefit after the Meet & Greet and will probably be "roasted" by some of his closest friends.

Titleholders from around the world will be presented on the 12th Street Stage at 1300 (that's 1:00 p.m. to "civilians"), so if you want to meet "Mr. and Ms.," that's when you should be there. Mr. SF Leather 2004 Julian and California Leather Woman Evan King will introduce all of them.

If you're out of town and can't make it to San Francisco this year, there's always next year, and within 24 hours after the street barricades come down and the trash is removed from the site, Folsom Street Events will begin planning for Folsom Street Fair 2005, so start your own planning now!

### Notes from afar

Last Saturday night, September 18, in far off Helsinki, Finland, the European Council of Motorcycle Clubs (ECMC) and their Finland club staged the Mr. Leather Europe contest. The winner of the title is Robert Merichetti of Antwerp, Belgium. He's a six-foot hunk who is into uniforms, and he will represent all of Europe at IML 2005 in Chicago next May.

Also last Saturday night, at the Double L Resort in Rehoboth



That's "Mama" on the right, pausing for a moment at the Leather Walk pit-stop along with fellow leather enthusiasts Todd Jackman, left, and the fabulous "Snatch." This year's edition of the walk raised some \$18,000 for the AIDS Emergency Fund and Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

Beach, Delaware, Steve Ranger of Washington, D.C. won out over six other contestants to win the Mr. Double L Leather. It was standing-room-only at the event when Patrick Grady, Mr. Double L 2003 stepped aside. Many of you may know Patrick who for many years was the manager of the Washington Plaza Hotel in D.C., site of the annual Mid-Atlantic Leather Weekend every January.

### These boots are made for you

Whether you have an extreme boot fetish, or you're just an ordinary guy or gal in need of a new pair of boots to show off at this year's Folsom Street Fair, get your butt down to Stompers on 10th & Folsom. Bootery Master Mike McNamee has this fantastic sale going on with discounts galore for almost any boot brand you could ever want. Last Sunday, boot freaks were passing out \$25 off coupons for any Stompers Boot purchase. Brand names in stock include Carolina, CAT, Chippewa, Dehner, Durango, Frye, Grip Fast, H-D, Rocky, Skechers, TUK and Wesco — just a few of their vast assortment. Don't let those one or two pair in your closet get lonely. Throw a boot party in your closet. Visit Stompers!

Have a wonderful Leather Pride week. Be kind to the tourists and the nude guys who shouldn't be nude.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Thursday, September 23

Bay Area Cigar Buddies gather at Blow Buddies tonight at 2100 (933 Harrison). Don't choke on those "big stogies"!

From 2000 to 2400, it's "Military Balls" at the Edge, a benefit for the LA&M in Chicago. Donna Sachet & Mr. Edge Todd Kinard MC, Sheba entertains, \$100 prize for best dressed. Raffles, \$8 beer/soda bust. Fun.

Bound & Gagged Party (as in the magazine) at the Loading Dock at 2000.

### Weekend, September 24-26

San Jose just has to get into our act with their "Folsom Fringe" weekend with a \$200 price tag (which includes bus trip to Folsom Fair), dungeon parties, classes, fun, frolic as only can be had in the prune capital of the world.

### Friday, September 24

Meet and Greet the contestants and judges for Mr. San Francisco Leather 2005 contest at the Powerhouse, at 2000, followed by Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn's "Last Deal" strip blackjack tournament until midnight, and a basket auction by the contestants for their travel fund.

SF Division of the Boots & Breeches Corps "Roll Call" dinner for \$69. If you didn't get your ticket by September 17, you must attend next year. SF Leather Daddies Art Auction at the Eagle Tavern gets underway around 2200 with loads of artwork, sculptures, photos and other great works of art. Tom Rodgers will be the auctioneer/host. Hey, there's also a Latex Party at the Loading Dock tonight!

### Saturday, September 25

Mr. SF Leather 2005 contest at 1600 in the afternoon at City Nights (715 Harrison). Tix for \$15 at Hard Rock and Mister S, or \$20 at the door. Shann Carr will entertain, IML Jason Hendrix will speak and ALL that leather!

The 15 Association monthly play party at their usual location. You must accompany your guests. For info: 673-0492 or [www.the15association.com](http://www.the15association.com).

### Sunday, September 26

The biggest leather party in the world on Folsom from 7th to 12th Streets. Titleholders from around the world on the 12th Street Stage at 1300 MC'd by Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn and California Leather Woman Evan King. Be there!



# CUM AND PLAY

STOP AIDS Project supports the community health efforts of LEAG.

Join the men of LEAG (Leather Events ACTION Group) for their kick-off event. Hear what's planned including the return of LeatherFUCK workshops. These "hands-on" interactive, skill-building sessions are specifically designed for men who are curious or just beginning to explore leather/bdsm/fetish play.

**FREE!** This is a no fragrance, drugs or alcohol event.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2004  
The Citadel, 245 8th Street  
(between Howard and Folsom)

8-10PM RECEPTION  
complimentary refreshments  
(doors close at 10pm!)

10PM-2AM SAFE PLAY PARTY  
Enter to win a door prize donated by LEAG  
and Mr. S Leather, valued at over \$500!

For reservations or more information call  
Paul at 575-0150 x229

LEATHER  
FUCK

WE'RE BACK...



## Out There

◀ page 34

Cultural Center for Latino Arts, the opening reception last Friday night for *¡Locos Peligrosos!* (*The Wild and Dangerous*), an art exhibit curated by **Daniel Arcos**, was a full *casa*. The show features works by the talented clients of Clínica Esperanza, including **Gustavo Barron**, **Lailo Lemos** and **Luz Decker**, and runs through Thursday, October 7, at MCCLA, 2868 Mission St.

Sunday night, drag performance artist **Ray Ferrer** brought Cuban revolutionary diva and **Fidel Castro's** exiled ex-lover **Coco López** to the **Jon Sims** Center stage. It's news to Out There, as perhaps to you, that Coco was formerly Cuba's co-leader. López recounted her seemingly interminable career on stage, screen and TV, bringing the audience along on a sentimental journey from self-described "inordinately glamorous socialist revolutionary" to struggling Hollywood survivor. What a trajectory.

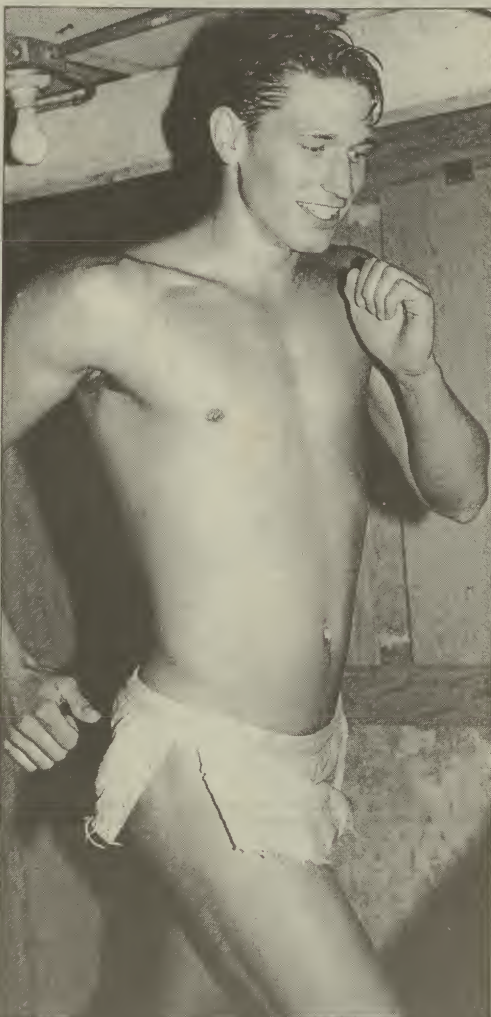
Music Theater Collaborative (MTC) and QueLACo will present *Cantos of Love and Loss*, a fall opera concert by **Hector Armienta**, **David Conte** and **Carla Lucero**, on Sunday, November 7, 4 p.m. at The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., details forthcoming.

### Book fetish

Beginning with the members-only preview on Wednesday night, Sept. 29, the **Friends of the San Francisco Public Library** will display and auction off works from the *Reversing Vandalism* exhibit, raising funds for the library. The silent auction will open to the public Thursday through Saturday, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.), over 150 works of art created from library books that were vandalized because they were perceived to have gay content or themes.

On Saturday, October 2, it's those library friends again, hosting a *Banned Books* reading during Banned Books Week. Each year, libraries, schools, and book-lovers celebrate Banned Books Week, and this country's freedom (so far) to read. Authors and celebs will read from their favorite proscribed books. More info at (415) 557-4258 or [sfpl.org](http://sfpl.org). *Vive the freedom of the press!* ▼

# BAR TALK



## PARTING GLANCES

### SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

### Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You: Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

### Do I Know You?

You - nice, dark haired Tom out walking. Me - tall, blu/bln, tongue-tied. You came into my Corbett apt. lobby after bumping car in driveway. Second chance? ☎ 71394

### N Judah Sept. 8 1:30pm

You: D & G blue top and cool GA sunglasses. Me: Dark suit. Would like to meet you - dinner sometime? ☎ 71397

### Latex Love

Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

### Seeking Friendship and More

34, HIV+, Healthy, 150, 5'10", BRN/BRN. Likes movies, music, cooking, fitness, and Sunday mornings in bed. Looking for that special someone who is honest and sincere. Drink and smoke ok. Age and race unimportant. ☎ 71375

### Redhead

Santa Rosa native, 43, 5'10", 180#, ex-Navy. Enjoys tennis, chess, talk, radio & reading. Seeks relationship. ☎ 71376

### Seeking Relationship

GWM 48 healthy HIV+ seeking 45 to 55 Black or Latino man HIV+ for companionship and possible LTR. I like going to football, baseball, musicals, and movies. Lonely. ☎ 71377

### Seeking a Friend / Companion

Asian man 65 seeking friend and companion for movie, travel, drives in the country, and intimate moments. Please be trim, muscular, and handsome, under 50. Can we meet and talk. ☎ 71378

### Nice But Lonely in Santa Rosa

Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tenerle en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

### I May Be 66 5'5" 130# But Can

get it up. Gray hair clean shaven seek black men over 40 for more than sex. No strings attached. Height/weight unimportant. Let's get down to it in the Haight. ☎ 71393

### The Hottest Guy In Town

Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. ☎ SAFE

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

### Asian Swimmers and Bathers

Wanted. I love to get into the water with young Asian guys. If you like swimming, hot tubs, or just bubble baths, I want to get naked and wet with you. ☎ 71371

### Coming to Reno Anytime Soon?

Stay with Me! This WM loves to give free massages for long periods of time, especially to the legs and calves. ☎ 71372

### FF Top

GWM, 60, HIV-. Nice big hands looking for GWM HIV- bottom for pleasure and fun times. Call ☎ 71373

### Full Leather Rimming Hood

Man in full leather, blindfolded rimming hood wants to meet buddy for long rimming adventures. Hooded man has a muscular build. ☎ 71379

### Hey Sacramento Oral Bottom Boy

is seeking those real men who travel through Sacramento on business, etc... Let me get on my knees & deep throat your tool and ride my eager hungry tight pink hole. Plow, stretch, grind, my hungry hole & mouth. I'm here to please! Bring a buddy and repeat often. Me: 37yr, white, very handsome, swimmers build, flat stomach, tight smooth butt & W/E. My clean discreet place. Days. Yes, Sir. ☎ 71382

### Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71383

### ABC - Asian, Black Caucasian

East Bay, mature hung white male ISO versatile ABC's. Age no problem. Prefer Asian bottom, white/black tops. Got 7 and tight buns. ☎ 71387

### I like Black or Latino Men

White male 48, healthy, HIV+, seeking 40 to 55 top black or Latino man, HIV+. Looking for fun, companionship and sex. The bigger, the better. ☎ 71390

### Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to get together with really funky guys - homeless guys, hobos, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate, sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No pain, S & M. ☎ 71391

### SFDowntown GayMale Lkg for Exam

Hello. My name is Joseph. I'm 61 yrs old 5'7" 150 lbs Lkg for a gay male to exam my prostate. Want to be waken for you. ☎ 71396

### Very Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to meet really funky guys - Hobo's, homeless men, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc - for hot, passionate sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No S & M or pain. ☎ 71395

### Bubble Butt Bum???????

...or outdoor Bohemian??? Homeless dude, uncut, hairy, shaved head, 13EE sandals, for closeness, scenes, Boss! Tie me, cuddle me, take me to the fair! English/Welsh, hazel eyes. ☎ 71398

## FETISHES

### Like to Shave Down?

BI SWM masculine and goodlooking seeks partner for full body shave downs, nude beaches and sunbathing. Hot Sex also. ☎ 71380

### ISO Nipple Workout Buddy

49 yr old GWM, stocky with huge erect nipples, BRN/BRN, salt & pepper goatee, tats, piercing's, smoker! ISO masculine, muscular, butch nipple pig. Nip workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions with growth in mind. Smoker A+. Call if interested. ☎ 71381

### I Aim To Please

Affectionate masculine, endowed black examinee deeply turned on by old men with smelly foreskin. (Big noses, hands, feet, ears, eyes) Pipe, Cigar smokers & suspenders are also turn ons. ☎ 71384

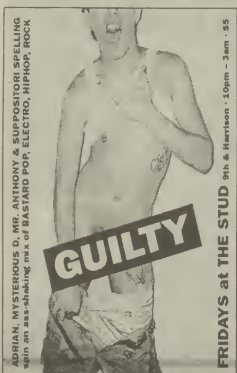
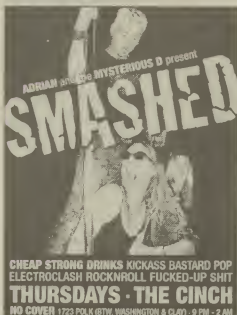
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# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

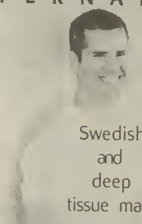


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Have table.

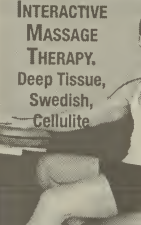
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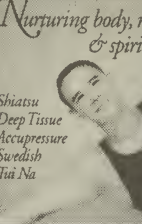
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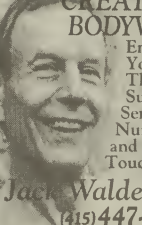
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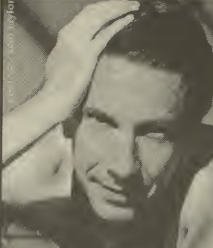
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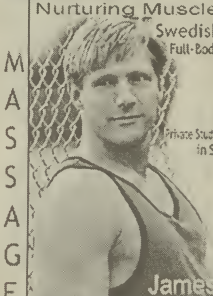
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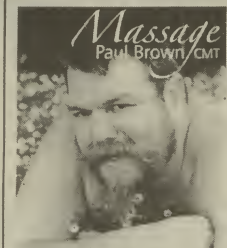


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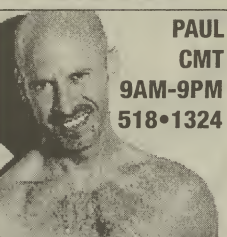
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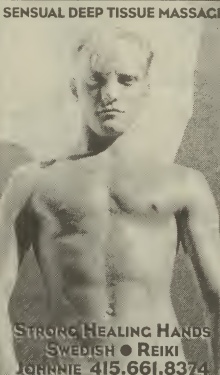


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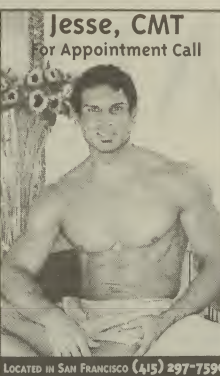
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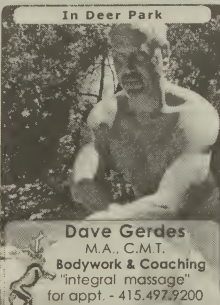
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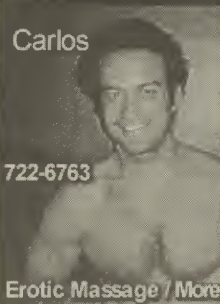
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Therapeutic  
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\$100/hr

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5'9", 145#  
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Slim/Smooth  
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Have table

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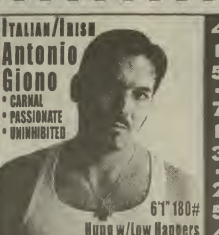
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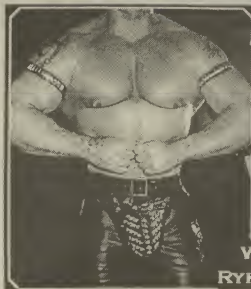
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Hot 8" Playtoy/Ken/346-4966/\$80

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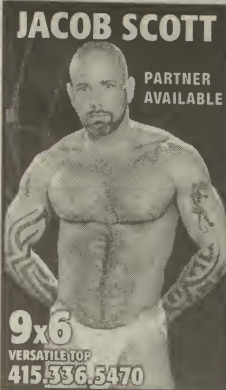
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**155#**  
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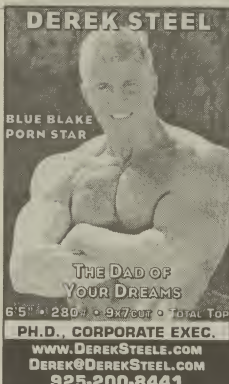
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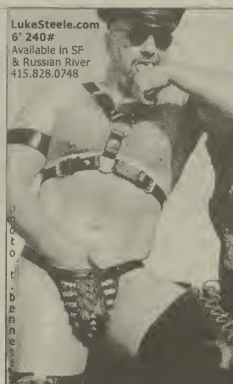


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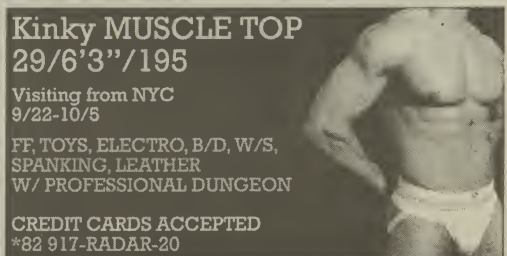
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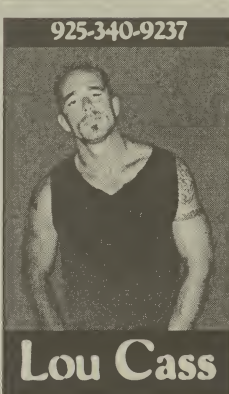


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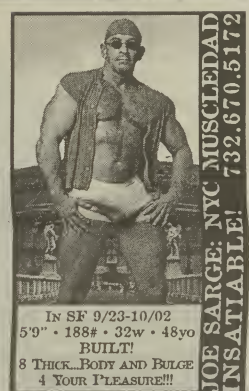
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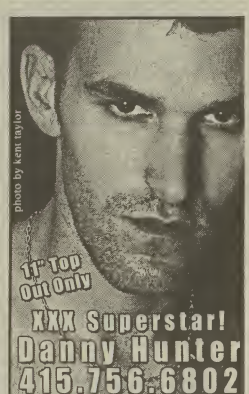
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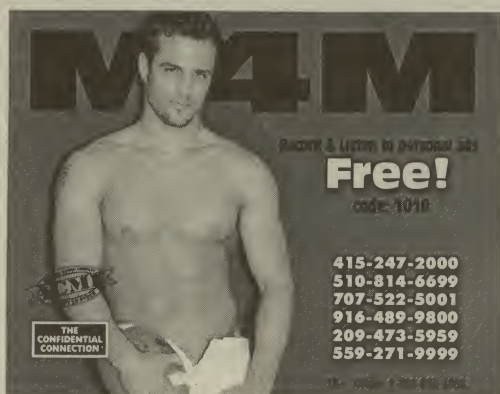


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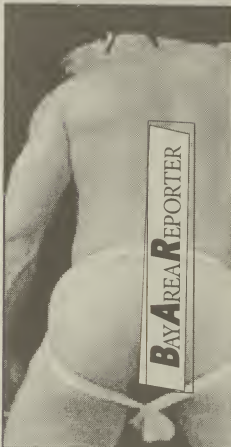
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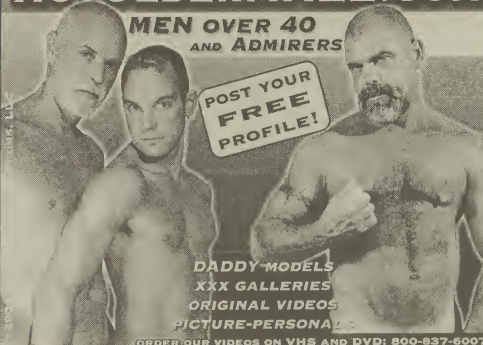
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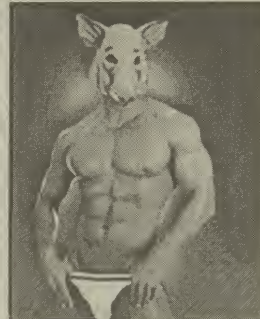
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